

# 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar Acceptance Tests

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## **Preface**

This report presents seven wind profiling radar tests conducted by the Artillery Branch of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory used to verify the successful functioning of the Reconstructed 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System. The purpose of this report is to provide a baseline reference for any future evaluation exercises.

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## **Contents**

Pr	eface		1
A	know	vledgements	3
Ex	ecuti	ve Summary	
1.	Bac	kground	<u>.</u> 9
2.	Rad	lar Basics	11
3.	Fre	quency Survey Test	15
	3.1	Frequency Survey Test Purpose	
	<i>3.2</i>	Hardware Setup and Materials	
	<i>3.3</i>	Test Description	
	3.4	Results and Result Interpretation	
4.	Loc	al Site And Internal Radar System Noise Test	19
	4.1	Local Site and Internal Radar System Noise Test Purpose	
	4.2	Test Setup and Description	
	4.3	Results and Result Interpretation	
5.	Rad	lar Signal Analysis Test	21
	5.1	Radar Signal Analysis Test Purpose	
	5.2	Hardware Setup and Materials	
	5.3	Test Description	
	5.4	Results and Result Interpretation	22
6.	"I"	and "Q" Tests	23
		"I" and "Q" Test Purpose	
		Hardware Setup and Materials	
	6.3	Test Description and Results	
	6.4	Result Interpretation	
7.	Орр	oosing Beams Test/Phase Shifter Functionality Test	25
	7.1	Opposing Beams Test Purpose	
	7.2	Test Setup and Description	
	<i>7.3</i>	Results and Result Interpretation	

8.	Sys	tem Noise: Radar Pre-amplifier Test	27
	8.1	Radar Pre-amplifier Test Purpose	27
	8.2	Hardware Setup and Materials	
	<i>8.3</i>	Test Description	
	8.4	-	
9.	Sys	tem Noise: Radar Distributed Amplifier Test	31
	9.1	Radar Distributed Amplifier Test Purpose	
	9.2	Hardware Setup and Materials	
	9.3	Test Description	
	9.4	Results and Result Interpretation	
10.	Mis	scellaneous Tests And Results	35
11.	Fin	al Remarks	37
Ref	feren	ıce	39
Acı	rony	ms and Abbreviations	41
		Appendices	
App	oendi	ix A. Results from Interchanging Reconstructed 924-MHz Wind Profiling	g
		Radar System Components into an Operational WSMR 924-MHz	
		Wind Profiling Radar System	43
App	oendi	ix B. Results from Elevating the Ground Clutter Removal Height of the	
		Reconstructed 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System	. 105
Dis	tribu	ution	. 129
•		Figures	
1. I	Reco	nstructed mobile 924-MHz wind profiling radar	
		r basics: POP4	
		ency survey test hardware configuration	
		ts from a local site and internal radar system noise test	
		r signal analysis test hardware configuration	
		nple of results from an "I" and "Q" test	
		ts from an opposing beams test	
		mplifier test hardware configuration	
9. 1	Main	amplifier test hardware configuration	32

### **Executive Summary**

In March of 1998, the Artillery Branch of the Army Research Laboratory received a Reconstructed 924 MHz Wind Profiling Radar System. Over the subsequent months, several hardware tests were conducted to verify the successful functioning of the radar components and integrated system. Seven radar evaluation tests are documented in this report.

The first two radar evaluation tests, the Frequency Survey, and the Local Site and Internal Radar System Noise Tests, examine the non-operational environments for possible radar signal corruption sources. The radar signal itself is reviewed in the Radar Signal Analysis Test. Finally, the radar's components are isolated and evaluated in the 'I' and 'Q', Opposing Beams, System Noise Test: Pre-Amplifier, and System Noise Test: Distributed Amplifier Tests.

Each test explanation includes: (1) the radar test purpose, (2) the hardware/test setup and materials, (3) the test description, and (4) the results and result interpretation. Figures displaying specific hardware setup or test results are included, as appropriate. Appended to the text are results from the initial radar verification exercise. To enhance the reader's understanding, brief excerpts from the Radar Acceptance Test logbook are included.

### 1. Background

In March of 1998, the Artillery Branch of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) received a reconstructed 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System (figure 1). Over the subsequent months, several hardware tests were conducted to verify the successful functioning of the radar components and integrated system. This report is intended to be a technical reference for guiding future evaluations of radar systems and to document many of the results from the initial verification tests.

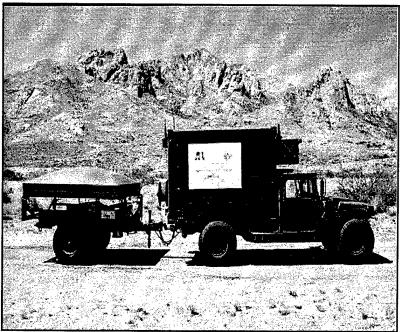


Figure 1. Reconstructed mobile 924-MHz wind profiling radar.

The explanatory structure for each radar tests consists of:

- the radar test purpose;
- the hardware test setup and materials;
- a test description; and
- the results, with an interpretation of the results.

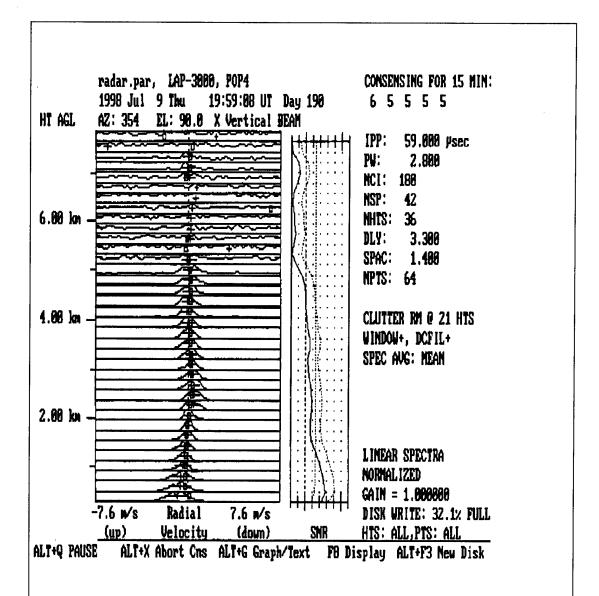
Figures displaying the hardware setup and a sample of results (when available) are included.

#### 2. Radar Basics

The basic data acquisition concept for the Wind Profiling Radar begins with a signal of a given frequency being transmitted into the atmosphere, scattered off targets (such as, humidity, turbulence, or solid objects) and returned to ("heard by") the radar. The time delay between the transmission and reception is bracketed into gates and is used to determine the representative height of the signal being returned. Through various signal processing steps [such as, time averaging, fast Fourier transfer (FFT), and spectral averaging], the received data are ultimately translated into wind speed and wind direction. Further details on Radar data collection are found in *LAP-3000 Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Mobile Profilers* (see reference).

During most of the following tests, the signal processing steps were interrupted at the point where the spectral curves for each gate were displayed. The primary radar software used during these 924-MHz radar tests was the Profiler On-line Program, Version 4 (POP4). The output display consisted of two plots and various radar sampling specifications documented around the plots (figure 2). The main plot (left side) displayed the power spectral/radial velocities sampled at each gate of the individual beam (X-axis). The maximum and minimum values for the X-axis were displayed, and represent the Nyquist frequency values. Note that positive radial velocities indicate Doppler motion toward the antenna, and negative values indicate motion away from the antenna. The Y-axis showed the power spectrum for each of the individual range gates. These range gates sampled were stacked lowest to highest, and scaled to height in kilometers (km).

The second POP4 plot displayed individual moment values for each range gate. The four specific curves included: (1) return power (signal), (2) system noise, (3) signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), and (4) zero reference line. The X-axis was scaled in 10 dB intervals. Y-axis was in gate number/height (kilometer). For further details, consult the LAP-3000 Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Mobile Profilers.



NOTE: Output Display. The left-side graph shows the power spectral/radial velocities versus height (kilometers). The right side graph displays the return power (signal), the system noise, SNR, and a zero reference line versus height (km).

Figure 2. Radar basics: POP4.

The detailed interpretation of the two plots requires a significant amount of understanding and experience with the sensor. For this technical report, however, only the most basic interpretation technique will be described:

The first step in interpreting the various POP4 profiler radar plots is to examine the system noise. Ideally, this will be a straight or near-straight vertical line approximately -10 dB. The SNR curve is examined next, noting the height at which the SNR curve dips below the -10 dB increment. Any data received when the SNR is less than or equal to -10 dB will typically generate questionable results. The user should also notice that the spectral curves for the gates reporting these conditions are significantly noisier, than those curves where the SNR is greater than -10 dB. The only exception to this characteristic is when the user has incorporated specialized advanced signal processing techniques in the radar processing software.

The expected atmospheric return will typically produce a single, non-symmetrical, power spectral peak. The center of this peak indicates the dominant radial velocity sampled for a specific gate.

For nonvertical beams, the single, nonsymmetrical peak will predominantly occur away from the center point. When a series of gates for a single beam consistently displays a symmetrical center peak (dc peak), this could indicate system noise. That is, the source of the return has no motion. Likewise, if a series of gates repeatedly displays a symmetrical peak at a single velocity, this also could indicate a system noise. It is important that the investigator remember that "the system" for this sensor includes not only the hardware, but also the environment. While investigating the cause for a series of elevated (2.5 to 3 km), symmetrical center peaks, the source That is, under those particular was determined to be ground clutter. atmospheric conditions, the radar signal was bouncing off local ground clutter, and by traversing multiple paths, the delayed time the signal took to return to the radar placed the ground clutter return at the elevated gates. With the use of advanced signal processing (second peak data processing), this phenomena can be identified and eliminated from the analysis, resulting in the gleaning of only useful atmospheric information.

One of the primary reasons for conducting the following investigation was to gain a better understanding for the observed, atypical "system noise" symptoms. While these tests are not all encompassing, they do help to explain and/or eliminate various radar phenomena.

## 3. Frequency Survey Test

The first test for a new site deals with the passive radio frequency (RF) signals present in the ambient atmosphere. Some specialized tools are required, and this test does presume that the user understands how to use a spectrum analyzer.

## 3.1 Frequency Survey Test Purpose

The quality of the 924-MHz wind profiler data is partly a function of the uniqueness of the 924-MHz return signal. When selecting a new site, a survey of the ambient signals not only quantifies the signal character in the local atmosphere, but helps the user to better optimize the beam selection. In short, the frequency survey test provides a survey (0° to 360° azimuth, 0° to 90° elevation) of the RF-noise present in the local atmosphere, which in turn, is a prerequisite for determining the wind profiler's "ideal" beam direction combination.

## 3.2 Hardware Setup and Materials

The tools required for this test consist of a 924-MHz wind profiler radar antenna panel (preferably an extra antenna panel that is not part of your operational radar system), a low noise amplifier (LNA) for the 924-MHz frequency, RG402 and standard BNC cables with appropriate connectors, a power supply, and a spectrum analyzer. Figure 3 displays the general configuration. A textual flow diagram is shown below.

### 3.3 Test Description

Important: The frequency survey test is performed with the wind profiling radar system turned off. Begin this test by assembling all hardware components, except the power supply-LNA connection. Conduct an independent check of the power supply with a Fluke meter to verify a 15 V supply of power. TURN OFF the power supply before attaching it to the LNA. Turn on the spectrum analyzer, then the power supply and observe the peaks on the spectrum analyzer.

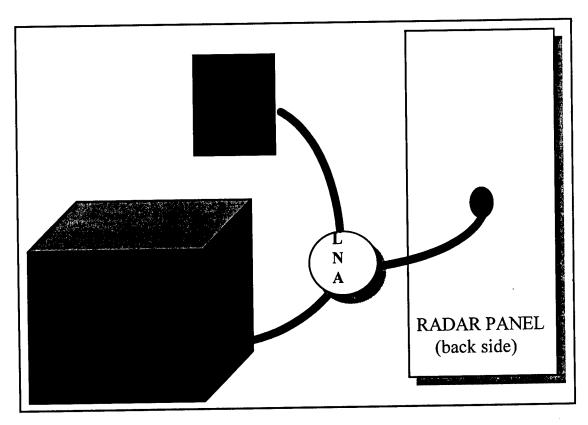


Figure 3. Frequency survey test hardware configuration.

The flow of information begins with the hand-held radar panel passively receiving signals that are amplified by the LNA, which is powered with a power supply and displayed on the spectrum analyzer. While one scientist smoothly rotates the radar panel, a second scientist observes the spectrum analyzer noting any signals close to the 924 MHz frequency of the radar and the direction the panel is facing when the 924-MHz/near-924 MHz signals are being received. If only one scientist is executing this test, a turntable can be built for the panel's rotation.

A representative atmospheric survey can be efficiently performed by rotating the hand-held radar panel in three patterns. First, the Horizontal Survey: Position the panel facing north at 0° elevation. Smoothly and slowly begin a 360° horizontal rotation toward the east, south, west and north. The second and third patterns examine the vertical dimension. Position the hand-held panel to the north at 0° elevation. While facing north, slowly and smoothly elevate the panel to 90°; turn from north to south and conclude the sweep toward the south from zenith to 0° elevation. The final survey follows the same 0-90-0° vertical sweep; however, the path starts in the east and ends in the west.

#### 3.4 Results and Result Interpretation

Ideally, the noise floor around the target frequency of 924 MHz should be fairly quiet and free from spikes. If, however, the noise floor is elevated or ambient spikes of signal are noted near or at 924 MHz, the quadrants in which these events are noted should be avoided when selecting the radar's beam configuration.

Currently, a common source for interference of the 924 MHz signal is cellular phones. These signals are often in the 915-MHz frequency range and generally occur intermittantly/randomly. If the radar is working near a populated area, the researchers should become familiar with cellular phone relay towers. Visually siting their locations would complement this survey exercise by providing an independent validation of the results.

Also noteworthy is that a site's ambient RF noise will exhibit diurnal and seasonal characteristics; that is, the direction selected as the ideal beam direction (i.e., having the lowest noise) in the evening, may not be so during daylight hours. Conducting the frequency survey test several times in a day or during various seasons is recommended.

### 4. Local Site and Internal Radar System Noise Test

The local site and internal radar hardware components are potential sources for noise. Depending on the power source, most U.S. sites will show the equivalent of a 60 Hz noise. This test requires an operational radar system, a 50-ohm terminator, and the ability to display stacked power spectral curves.

#### 4.1 Local Site and Internal Radar System Noise Test Purpose

The local site and internal radar system noise test display the cumulative local area (local light sources, etc.) and internal radar system noise in radial velocity measurements. Humidity, grounding, and other electrical sources can affect the results.

#### 4.2 Test Setup and Description

The test setup begins with an operational Wind Profiling Radar System. Disconnect the receiver-in cable on the back of the receiver/modulator unit. (NOTE: The transmit cable need not be disconnected.) Connect the 50-ohm terminator to the receiver-in BNC connector. Observe the stacked power spectral plots.

### 4.3 Results and Result Interpretation

The expected results for U.S. sites are spectral peaks in all range gates at the equivalent 60 Hz radial velocity magnitude. Typically, the 924-MHz radar places the peak at a radial velocity of approximately +/-9.7 m/s. If peaks are not present, increase the maximum radial velocity scale. The operator may also need to increase the number of coherent interations (NCI) to greater than 350. NOTE: the SNR should be very low (i.e., -20 dB). See figure 4.

If the 60 Hz (~ +/-9.7 m/s) peaks are detected in all range gates, this indicates that the receiver is functioning correctly. If the 60 Hz peaks are entirely absent, this doesn't necessarily indicate failure. However, additional testing is recommended. If other signal patterns of the same amplitude are also present in the power spectra, ambient signals are present and need to be identified. Additional receiver/modulator tests should be conducted.

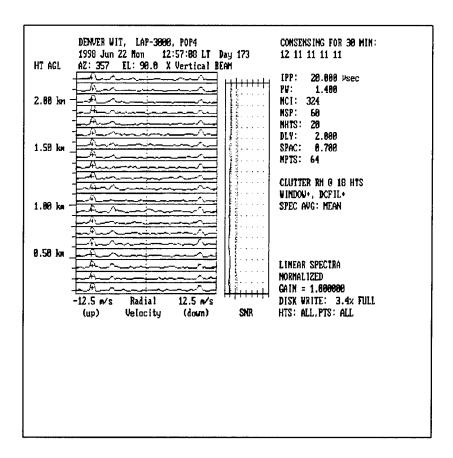


Figure 4. Results from a local site and internal radar system noise test.

## 5. Radar Signal Analysis Test

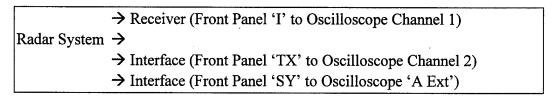
The radar signal analysis (RSA) test displays the real-time, transmitted and received radar signals, allowing the researcher to identify and observe any spurious signal from nonatmospheric sources. Some specialized tools are required, and this test does presume that the user understands how to use an oscilloscope.

#### 5.1 Radar Signal Analysis Test Purpose

The purpose of the RSA test is to check for systematic and unexplained noise in the transmitted and received radar signals. An additional benefit is the opportunity to validate the interpulse period (IPP) length. When the radar's power spectral curves appear questionable, this test is one of the initial tests to be performed.

### 5.2 Hardware Setup and Materials

The tools required for this test consist of the standard operational wind profiling radar setup, an oscilloscope (100-MHz or better) and three oscilloscope cables. See figure 5 for hardware setup. A textual diagram follows.



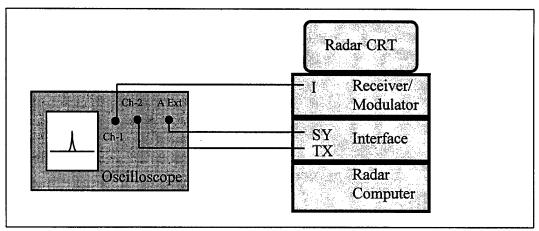


Figure 5. Radar signal analysis test hardware configuration.

#### 5.3 Test Description

Beginning with an operational 924-MHz radar configuration, disconnect the transmit cable on the back of the receiver/modulator unit. From the interface front panel, connect "SY" (sync) to the oscilloscope "A Ext" (external). This action will coordinate the internal timing of the two units. Next, connect the interface front panel "TX" (transmit) to oscilloscope Channel 2. From the receiver front panel, connect "I" (in-phasing) to the oscilloscope Channel 1. (NOTE: the quadrature, Q is left open.) Adjust the oscilloscope scales (i.e., ch 1 = 0.2 V/div; ch 2 = 2 V/div; A and  $B = 5 \text{ }\mu\text{s}$ ;) and observe the oscilloscope values.

#### 5.4 Results and Result Interpretation

The signal displayed on the oscilloscope should show a major pulse followed by a series of successive, much smaller oscillations. The large pulse is the outgoing signal, the minor pulses are the return signals being heard by the radar system. These smaller amplitude pulses are complex, and vary rapidly. Thus, they will appear somewhat fuzzy, especially as you increase the resolution of the oscilloscope scaling. The display's x-axis is Time and each Time interval between pulses should agree with the IPP in your configuration file.

When the signal reflects from transient hard objects (birds, planes, etc.), the displayed signal will suddenly expand significantly. When the sampling area is cleared of the object, the display will return to the original periodic pattern. For best RSA test results, the recommendation is that only one beam at a time be selected and observed.

## 6. "I" and "Q" Tests

Removing the Doppler element of the radar is also an informative exercise to test. For the wind profiling radar user, this test requires no external equipment.

## 6.1 "I" and "Q" Test Purpose

The purpose of the "I" and "Q" tests are to check the functioning of the signal's in-phase and quadrature, respectively. This test presumes that the user has access to a stacked power spectral display plot (figure 6).

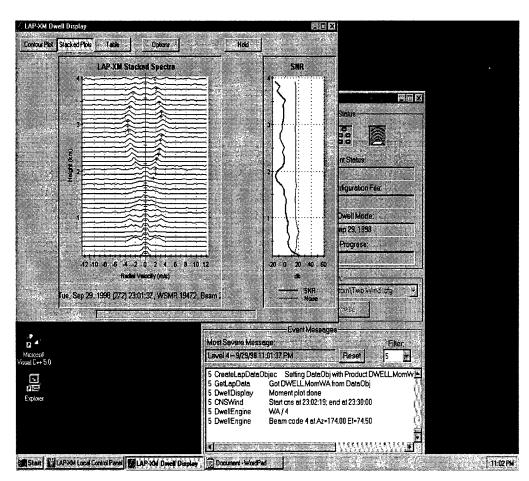


Figure 6. A sample of results from an "I" and "Q" test.

#### 6.2 Hardware Setup and Materials

The equipment required for this test is the standard operational Wind Profiling Radar System, as well as, software that will display stacked power spectral curves.

### 6.3 Test Description and Results

Begin this test by operating the radar in the normal wind-profiling mode. Disconnect the "I" output cable on the back panel of the receiver/modulator unit. Allow the radar to take three more cycles of samples. Then, observe the pattern of the stacked power spectral display. The curves should be symmetrical around the center point [direct current (dc) peak].

Reconnect the "I" output cable and disconnect the "Q" Output cable. Allow the radar to cycle through three sampling sets, then observe the stacked power spectral display pattern. As before, the curves should be symmetrical around the center point (figure 6).

### **6.4** Result Interpretation

The expected symmetrical pattern around dc results from the absence of Doppler information in the displayed data set. If any other pattern is observed, depot level maintenance is required. That is, your radar manufacturer may have to replace various radar components to resolve this error.

## 7. Opposing Beams Test/Phase Shifter Functionality Test

The opposing beams test requires no specialty hardware. This diagnostic tool does, however, require data analysis software that is able to display power spectra curves vertically stacked and/or the ability to overlay user-selected stacked power spectral plots.

#### 7.1 Opposing Beams Test Purpose

The primary purpose of the opposing beams test is to provide the initial check whether the phase shifters are functioning correctly. NOTE: the phase shifters are responsible for the steering of the beams.

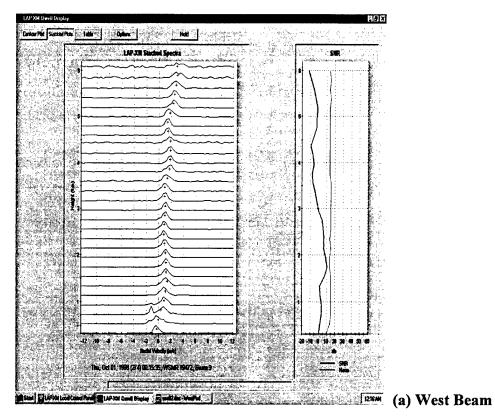
#### 7.2 Test Setup and Description

The opposing beams test requires an operational wind profiling radar, with software that allows the user to select the beam configuration. As mentioned above, having a near real-time visual display of the power spectra curves vertically stacked and/or the ability to overlay user-selected spectral plots are highly recommended. POP4 has both the near real-time spectral displays and the ability to overlay spectral graphs.

The test begins with an operational wind profiling radar setup. Before initiating the radar transmission, enter the radar's parameter setup screen. Select the beam order as north then south, east then west, x-vertical then y-vertical. This 6-beam sequence can also be done in pairs of two such as, just north and south, just east and west, etc. Once the beam order is established, save the parameter setup and begin data collection. Observe the shape of the longwave curve formed by the power spectral maximums from gates 1 to n (50). Compare by overlaying each graph of the 2-beam set: north and south, east and west, x- and y-vertical.

#### 7.3 Results and Result Interpretation

Ideally, the north beam spectral plot should mirror (around the 0 m/s radial velocity) the south beam spectral plot. Likewise, the east and west plots should display mirror images around the zero Doppler point. Such results imply that the phase shifters are functioning correctly. The best results occur when winds are steady, from a single direction (figure 7).



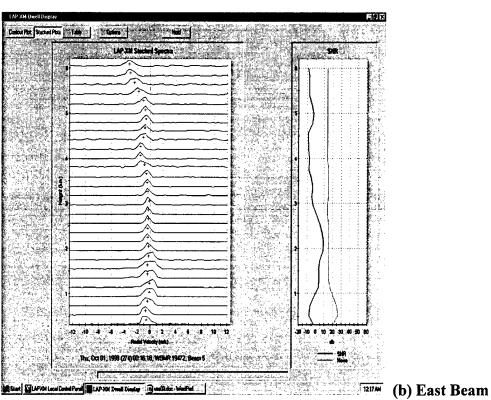


Figure 7. Results from an opposing beams test.

## 8. System Noise: Radar Pre-amplifier Test

System noise can originate from any component in the Wind Profiling radar System. As such, the various subsystems can be isolated and tested for noise. This test focuses on the pre-amplifier unit. Some specialized tools are required, and this test does presume that the user understands how to operate an oscilloscope.

### 8.1 Radar Pre-amplifier Test Purpose

The purpose of the pre-amplifier test is to check for noise in the pre-amplifier component of the wind profiling radar. This test is performed when systematic errors are evident in the power spectra curves displayed by the radar controlling software. The results will help identify or eliminate the pre-amplifier as the source of the radar's systematic errors.

### 8.2 Hardware Setup and Materials

Tools required consist of an operational 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System, a directional coupler, a crystal detector, a 50-ohm, 5-kW load, and an 100-MHz (or better) oscilloscope.

To construct this test, begin with the normal operational wind profiling radar setup. The main feed-line, J1, on the pre-amplifier unit (under antenna on trailer) is diverted into a directional coupler, which is split into two outputs. The directional coupler's X-Y switch goes to the 50-ohm 5-kW load; the right angle branch with the -30 dB drop, goes into the crystal detector, which feeds to the oscilloscope. Figure 8 pictorially displays the setup. A word flow chart follows:

Computer/Receiver/Interface→Pre-Amp|→ J1 → Directional Coupler |→Load.

Crystal Detector→ Oscilloscope.

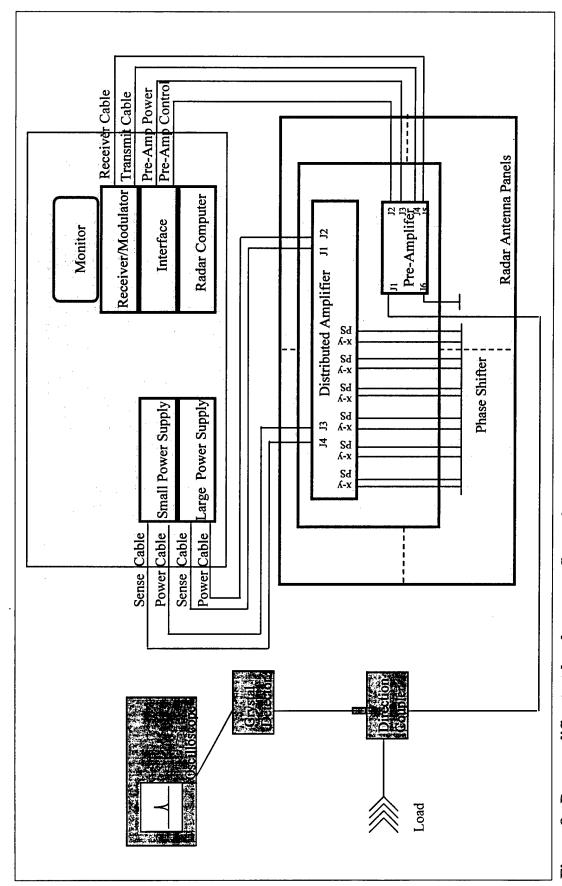


Figure 8. Pre-amplifier test hardware configuration.

#### 8.3 Test Description

This test begins by setting the 924-MHz radar system into a mode that will continuously transmit on a single, nonvertical beam. The pre-amplifier test is conducted at the junction of the pre-amplifier unit and the phase shifter, which is prior to the signal being manipulated by the distributed amplifier (six distributed amplifiers). The pre-amplifier J1 connection is removed from the radar antenna panel (phase shifter) and reconnected to a directional This removes the distributed amplifier subassembly from the system and eliminates it as a source of noise for this test. (NOTE: Though the antenna and any external signal are also not included in this test, all other connections/cables remain in their operational configuration.) There are two exits to the directional coupler. One, the X-Y switch, passes most of the signal straight through and is connected to a 50-ohm, 5 kW load. The second, a right-angled connection, has a -30 dB drop and is connected to the crystal detector, which in turn, connects to the oscilloscope. The researcher observes the oscilloscope signal, recording the values for comparison with the known values for the radar system. These known values are available from the manufacturer.

#### 8.4 Results and Result Interpretation

Acceptable oscilloscope values for this 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System should read 172 mV (+/-35 mV). Such results indicate that the preamplifier performance is normal. If the voltage is outside (high or low) of this range or fluctuates during the transmission (beam on) period, then the pre-amplifier should be considered unreliable and replaced with another equivalent unit. A second pre-amplifier test with the "equivalent unit" should be conducted to determine if the problem still exists. If the problem is no longer present, then the originally tested pre-amplifier unit should be repaired. If the problem still exists, the original pre-amplifier unit should still be considered unreliable and should be serviced; further testing is recommended (see system noise test: distributed amplifier test).

## 9. System Noise: Radar Distributed Amplifier Test

A second system noise test focuses on the distributed amplifier. Some specialized tools are required, and this test does presume that the user understands how to use an oscilloscope.

#### 9.1 Radar Distributed Amplifier Test Purpose

The purpose of the distributed amplifier test is to check for noise in the distributed amplifier. This test is done when systematic errors are evident in the spectral display and the pre-amplifier test is inconclusive. The results will help identify and/or eliminate the six RF amplifiers in the distributed amplifier as the source of the radar's systematic errors.

#### 9.2 Hardware Setup and Materials

Tools required for this test consist of the radar computer, interface, receiver/modulator, power supplies, distributed amplifier, pre-amplifier, radar antenna, directional coupler, crystal detector, load, and 100-MHz (or better) oscilloscope.

The setup starts with a powered-off, normal operational wind profiling radar. One of the six X-Y relay inputs (not phase shifter output) on the distributed amplifier is diverted to a directional coupler. The directional coupler splits into two outputs: the X-Y switch goes to a load; the right angle branch with the -30 dBm drop goes to a crystal detector, which displays the signal on the oscilloscope. Figure 9 shows the hardware setup pictorially. A flow chart using words follows.

1.	Radar Computer et al. [TX] → Pre-Amplifier → Antenna.
2.	→ Phase Shifter→Antenna.  Power Supplies→Distributed Amplifier  →X-Y Relay→Directional Coupler →Load.
	Crystal Detector→Oscilloscope

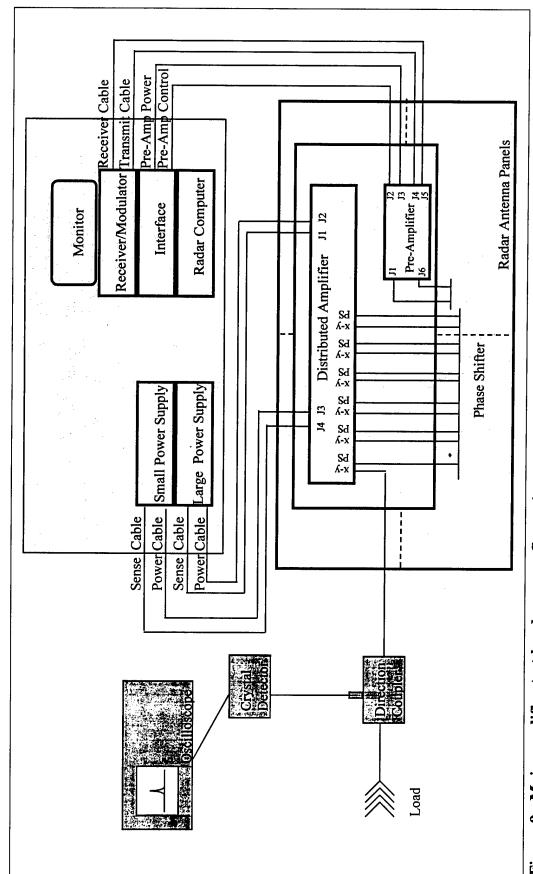


Figure 9. Main amplifier test hardware configuration.

#### 9.3 Test Description

Begin the test by programming the 924-MHz wind profiling radar to transmit one nonvertical beam continuously. The unaltered flow of connections starts with the radar computer, progresses through the interface unit, receiver/modulator unit, then to the pre-amplifier, phase shifter, distributed amplifier, and radar antenna panel. The altered path involves selecting a single X-Y relay input from the distributed amplifier and diverting the antenna panel connection to a directional coupler. (NOTE: The phase shifter output associated with this X-Y relay input remains connected to the radar antenna panels.) There are two exits to the directional coupler. The directional coupler's XY switch connects to a load, with the right angled -30 dBm drop connected to a crystal detector, which, in turn, connects to the oscilloscope. The researcher observes the values of the oscilloscope and compares them with the known values for the radar system. Each of the six X-Y relay input amplifier nodes in the distributed amplifier need to be checked individually.

Checking the six RF amplifiers in the distributed amplifier includes the effects of all other components of the radar system, except the antenna itself. Each RF amplifier is tested individually, although if equipment is available, all amplifiers can be connected to oscilloscope displays at the same time and tested simultaneously.

#### 9.4 Results and Result Interpretation

Acceptable oscilloscope amplitude values should read about 168 to 178 mV for each of the six amplifier nodes in the distributed amplifier. Ideally, all amplifer nodes should be within +/-35 mV of 168 mV. If the voltage is outside (low or high) of this range, or fluctuates during the transmit (beam on) period, then the RF amplifier in question should be considered unreliable and replaced with another equivalent unit to see if the problem is resolved. Replacing the entire distributed amplifier can be attempted if several RF amplifiers are behaving poorly, and an equivalent unit is available.

#### 10. Miscellaneous Tests And Results

During the acceptance testing of the reconstructed 924 MHz wind profiling radar, the receiver/modulator unit and the interface unit of the "reconstructed radar" were brought to an accepted and operational White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System. Results from inserting the individual components into the Operational-924 MHz radar system are displayed in appendix A.

After representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Radian, and ARL reviewed the initial hardcopy results, a subsequent series of tests were conducted. This second major evaluation exercise used only the reconstructed 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System. As before, the POP4 software was used to run the system. Changes were made to the maximum height and the ground clutter reduction height. An executive test summary and the hardcopy results, with a brief description of the various test parameters written onto each hardcopy, are included in appendix B.

#### 11. Final Remarks

The preceding tests are samples of the more informative tests conducted during the 924-MHz Reconstructed Wind Profiling Radar Acceptance Exercise. The primary focus of these tests was on the hardware. For a more complete review of an integrated Wind Profiling Radar System, the software (specifically the data processing) needs to be addressed. This software component is one of the most critical in generating valuable atmospheric information for the user. At the time of this writing, NOAA was in the process of congealing their numerous years of wind profiler experience into automated advanced signal processing algorithms. We look forward to their automated analysis insights.

## Reference

The Lap-3000 Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Mobile Profilers, Radian International LLc Electronics Division, Doc Control No. 80018205, Rev B, 1996 August.

## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ARL U.S. Army Research Laboratory

dc direct current

FFT Fast Fourier Transfer

IPP interpulse period

LNA low noise amplifier

NCI number of coherent integrations

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

POP4 Profiler On-line Program, Version 4

'Q' quadrature

RF radio frequency

RSA radar signal analysis

SNR signal-to-noise ratio

WSMR White Sands Missile Range

## Appendix A

Results from Interchanging Reconstructed 924-MHzWind Profiling Radar System Components into an Operational WSMR 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System

#### 1. PURPOSE: To understand

(1) the source of the apparent system noise in ARL 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System;

(2) determine if the ARL radar switches are needing inspection.

Both of the above concerns were initially described in my May 27 email to Carlton Schneider.

#### 2. WHAT FOLLOWS:

(1) Useful logbook entries from the initial post May 27 testing.

Location: ARL Radar Site, WSMR, NM

Software: LAP-XM 1.5

(2) Copy of Denver Wit Site Test Logbook and representative output plots (1-56).

Location: Denver WIT Site, WSMR, NM

Software: POP4

NOTE: Plot numbers referenced in logbook are correlated with numbers on upper

right corner of plots.

#### 3. POC for RADAR TESTS:

ARL: Creegan (Engineer), Vaucher (Research Meteorologist), Yarbrough (ElectronicsTechnician)

WSMR: Parsons (Electronics Technician)

#### 4. TESTS DONE:

(1) Mirror Test - test opposite off-axis beams (N-S; E-W).

- (2) '60 Hz' Noise Tests Isolated ARL Receiver, Interface Unit, Pre-Amplifier.
  - (a) Place 50 ohm terminator on Receiver-in.
  - (b) Place 50 ohm terminator on Pre-Amp (just prior to phase shifter/antenna)

#### 5. METHOD:

- (1) Bring WSMR Radian Radar Receiver to ARL-Radian Radar system See 'What Follows #1'
- (2) Bring ARL Radian Radar Receiver, Interface Unit, Pre-Amplifier to WSMR Radian Radar See 'What follows #2'.

NOTE: Both ARL and WSMR radars are 924-MHz Radian Radars.

#### 6. OBSERVATIONS from TESTS DONE:

- (1) ARL site tests Using LAP-XM (ARL system), radar return from rain was greater than the dc peak.
- (2) ARL site tests Using LAP-XM(ARL system), dc peak (center peak) was present
  - (a) with ARL Receiver;
  - (b) with WSMR Receiver.
- (3) DENVER WIT site Tests Using POP4 (WSMR system):
  - (a) WSMR system functioned as expected.
  - (b) Mirror Tests: Winds were light; however, when the ARL-Receiver rather than the ARL-Interface Unit was used in the WSMR Radian System, the results implied that both units were functioning acceptably.
  - (c) 60 Hz Test 50 Ohm Terminator on ARL-Receiver.
    - (1) Gates 4-20 appeared as expected, with peaks around +/-9.7 m/s, and no center peak.
    - (2) Gates 1-3 had a migrating peak that began in the positive half and wrapped around to the negative, etc.
  - (d) 60 Hz Test 50 Ohm Terminator on Pre-Amp

(d) 60 Hz Test - 50 Ohm Terminator on Pre-Amp

(1) WSMR final Amp generated expected 20 gates of noise.

(2) ARL Pre-Amp displayed a center peak, then a ~+9m/s peak.

(3) ARL Pre-Amp and ARL Receiver setup displayed 2 symmetrical (~+/- 10 m/s) peaks in gates 1-20.

Gates 1-3 included a secondary migrating peak. This migration stayed primarily in the negative half of the m/s scale.

#### USEFUL LOGBOOK ENTRIES FROM THE INITIAL POST, MAY 27 TESTING.

Location: ARL Radar Site, WSMR, NM

Software: LAP-XM 1.5

98 June 10 - 1720 z: Scattered showers, radar glossy with rain/moisture coating.

Notch no longer max peak in 80% of gates;

sometimes the remaining 20% is near sfc, sometimes near top.

98 June 15 - 1716z: ARL Receiver/Modulator in ARL system. (LAP-XM) - Test

Control/baseline.

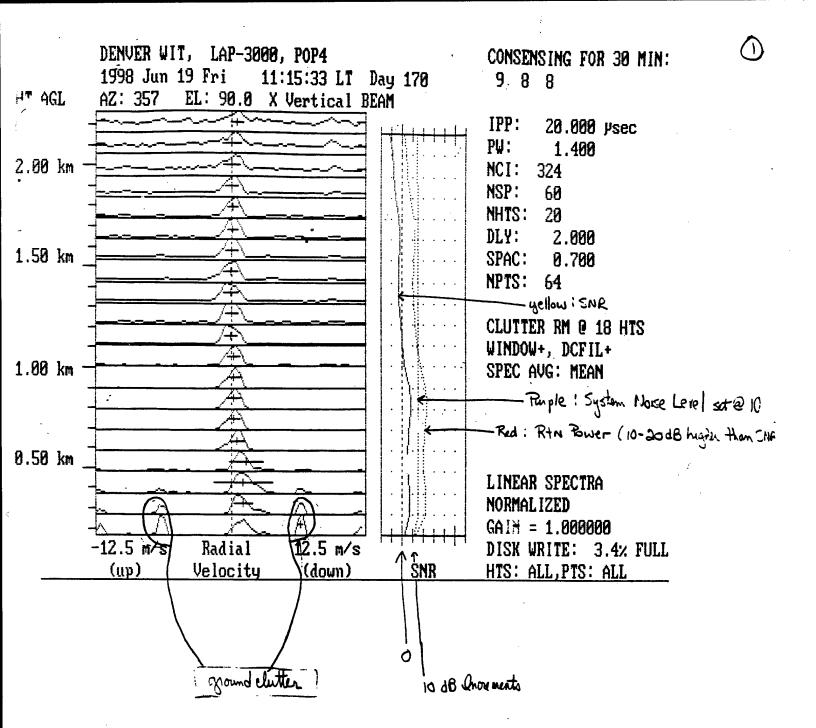
Notch still in place, gates 1-50.

98 June 15 - 1736z: WSMR Receiver/Modulator in ARL system. (LAP-XM)

Notch still in place. Stacked plot is symmetrical much of time.

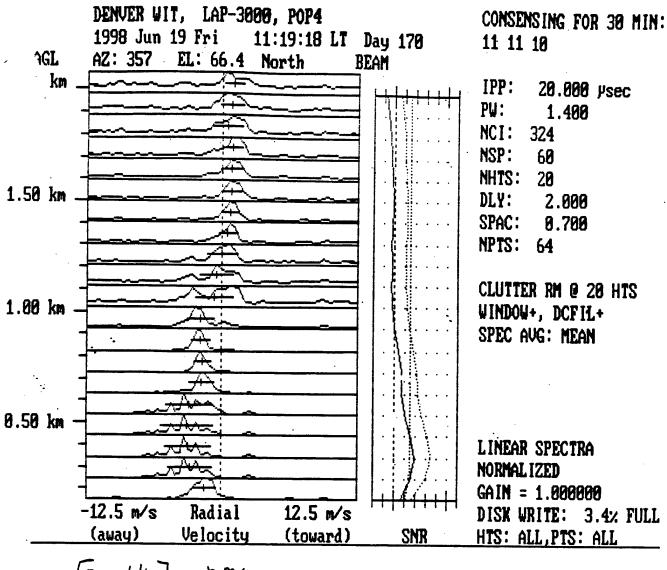
98 June 15 - 1751z: WSMR Receiver/Modulator in ARL system. (LAP-XM) - Notch filter on.

Notch still present. Intermittent noise mainly flatlines.

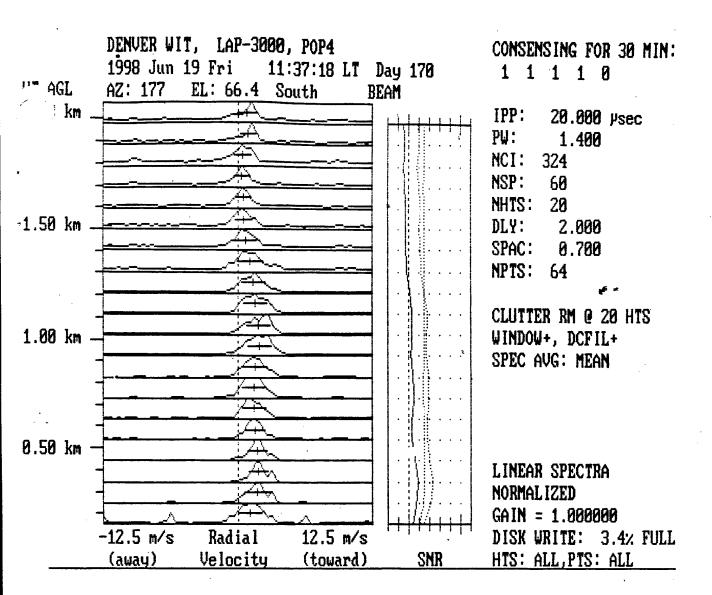


[WSMR System - No charged]



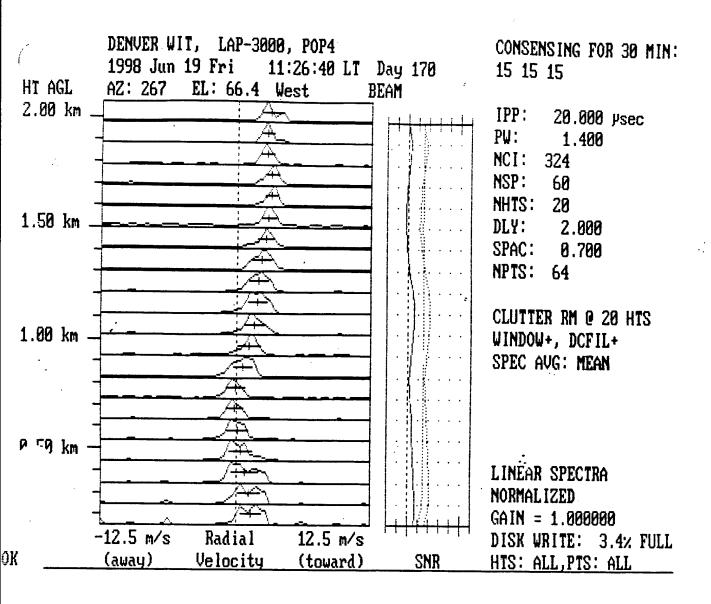


[0-1km] < 0 m/s [1-2 km] > 0 m/s



[WSMR System - No changes ]

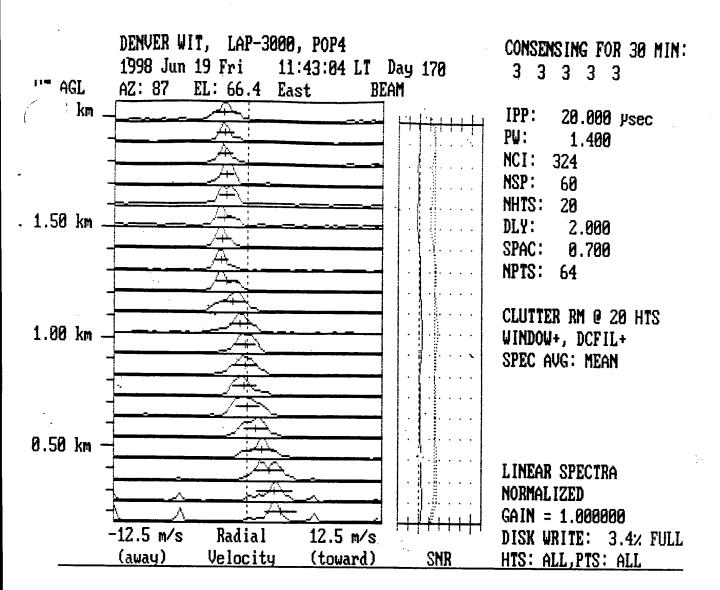
[0-2km] > 0 m/s



[wenr System - No Changes]

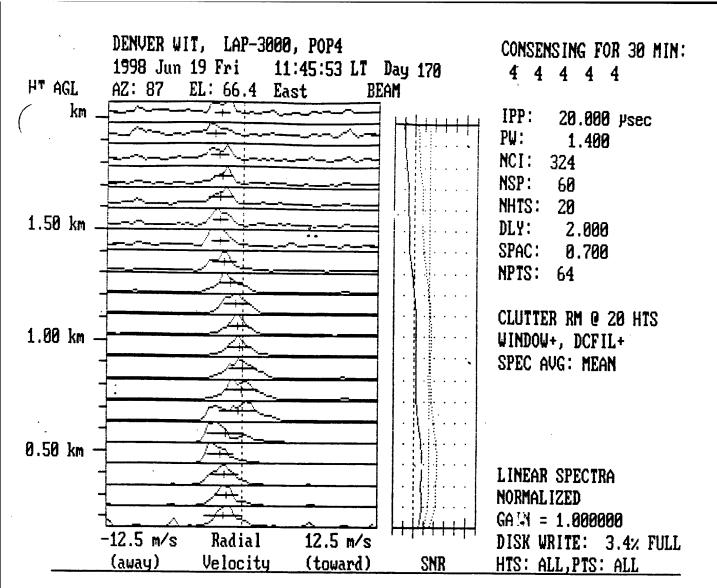
[.8 km - 2 km] > 0 m/s





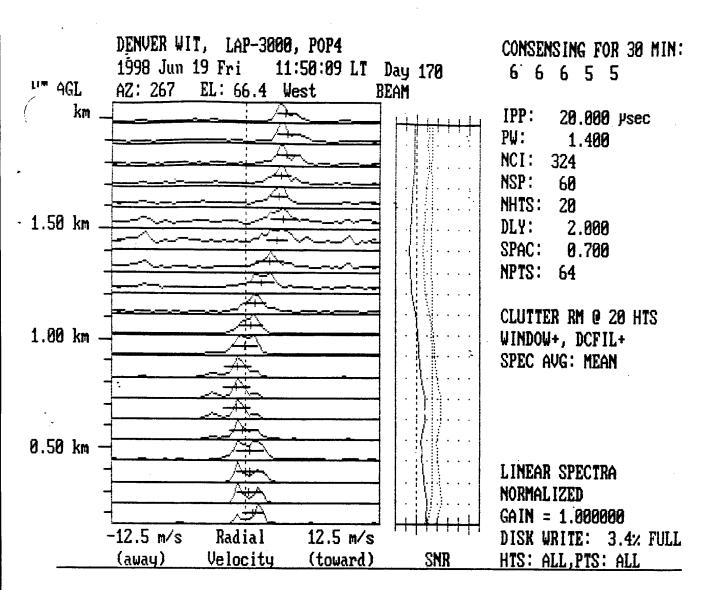
[1-2 km] < 0 m/s





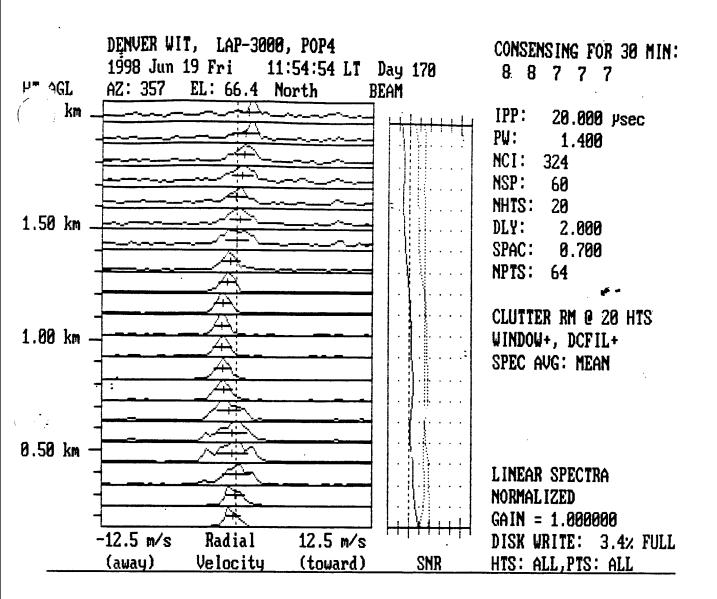
[WSMR Systom - No changes\_]

[1.3-2 km] < 0 m/s



[1.2-2 ki] > 0 ms

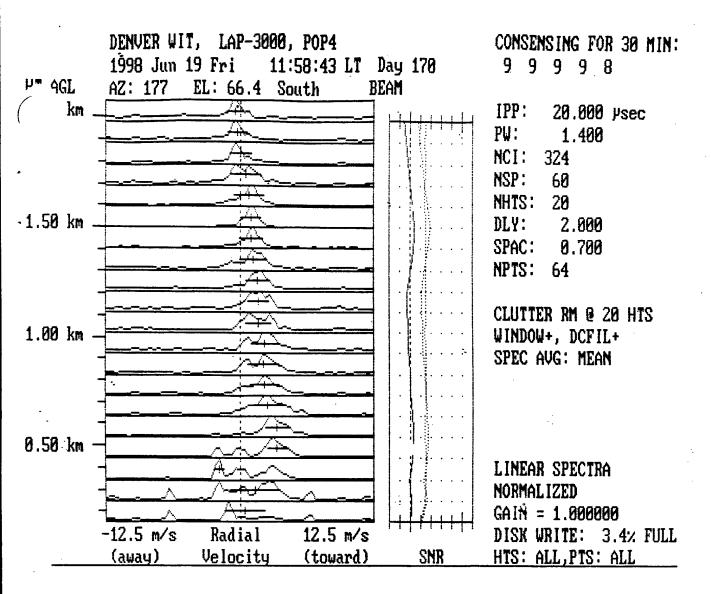




[WSMR system - No Changes]

[.6-1.3 Km] < 0 m/s

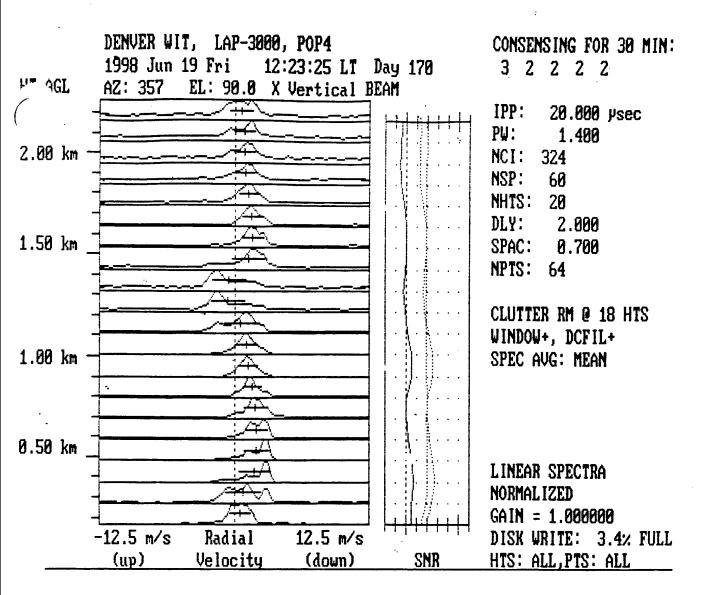




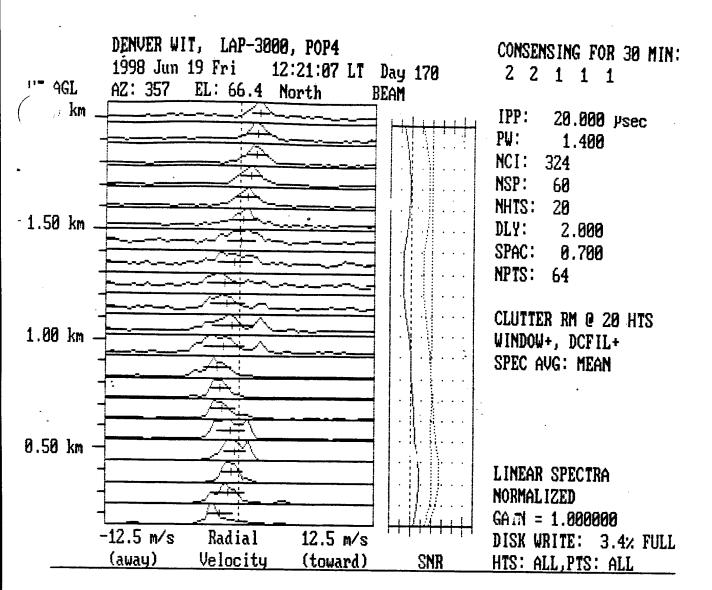
[WSMR System - No Change]

[.6 - 1.6 km] > 0 m/s





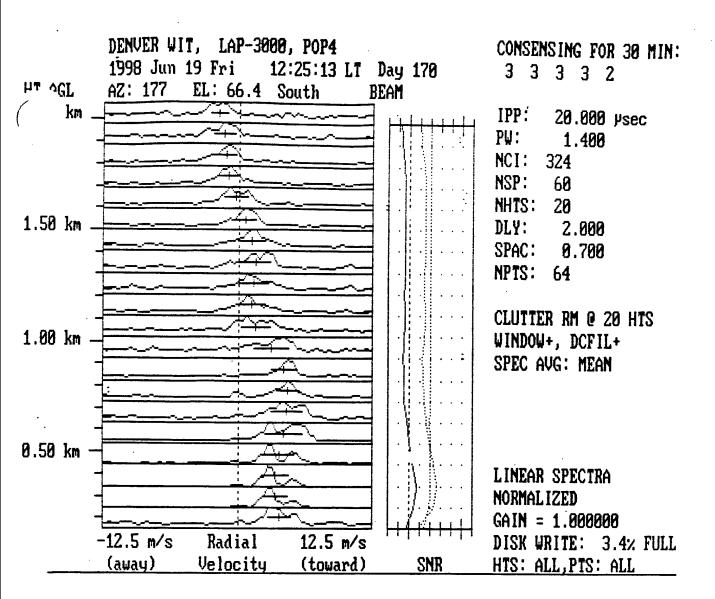
[WSAR System W/ ARL Receiver]

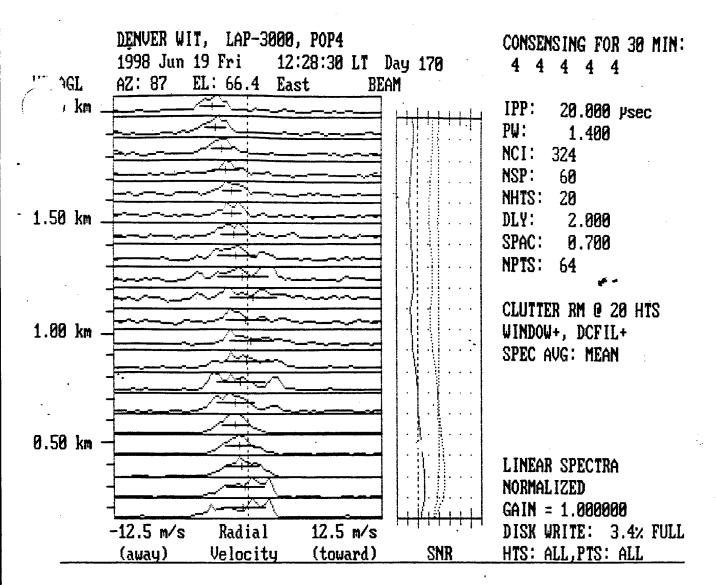


[WSMR = ystem W/ARL Receiver]

[0-1.5] < 0 m/s [1.5-2] > 0 m/s

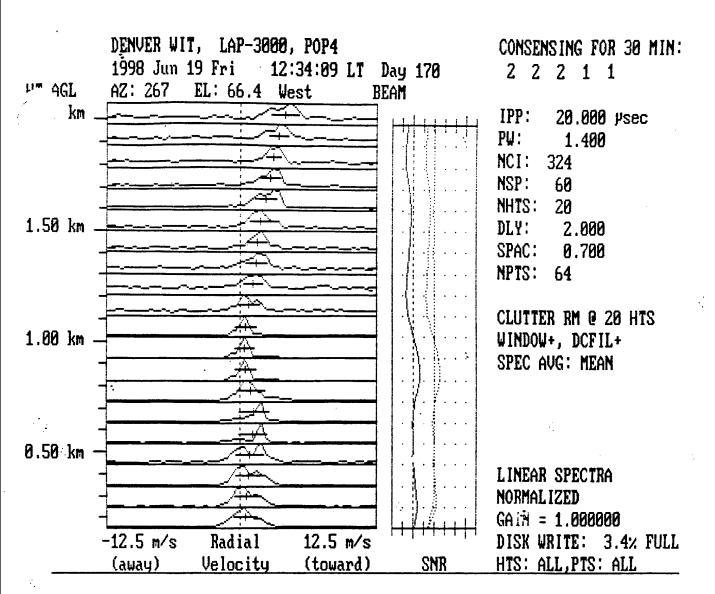






[WSMK System W/ARL Received]

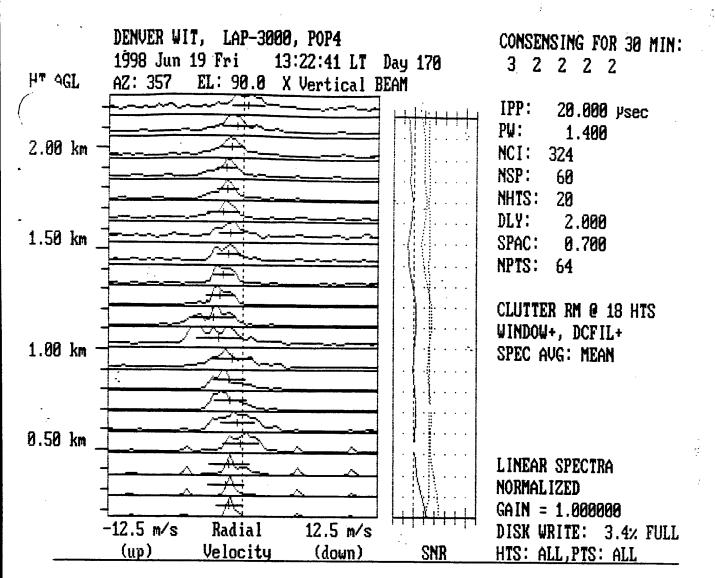
[,5-2 Km] < 0 m/s



[WSMR system 11/ ARL Receiver]

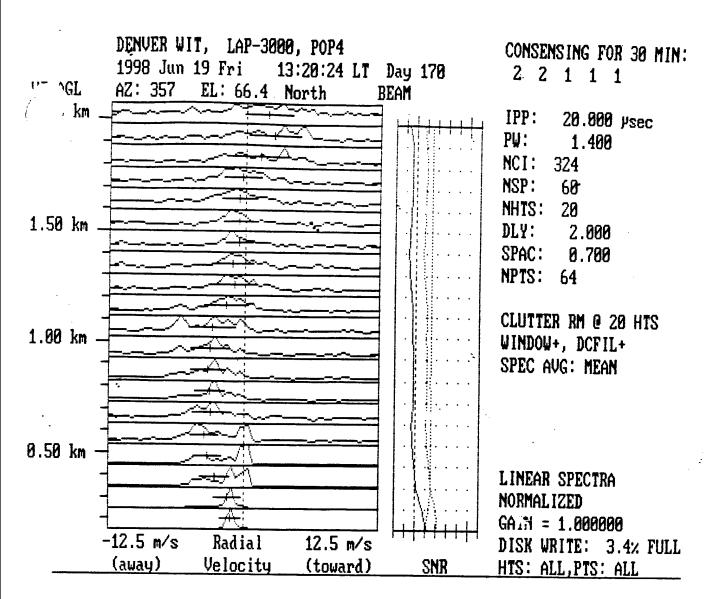
[.5 + 2 Km] > Q M/S





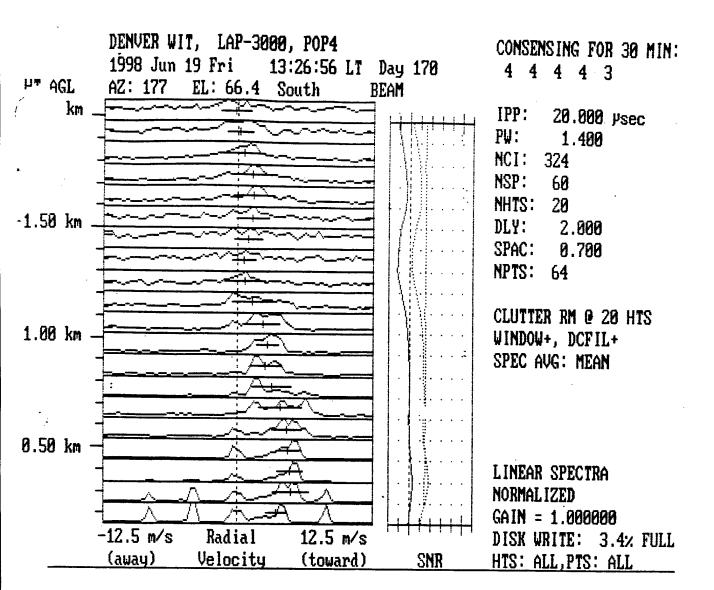
[WSMR system W/ARL Interface box]





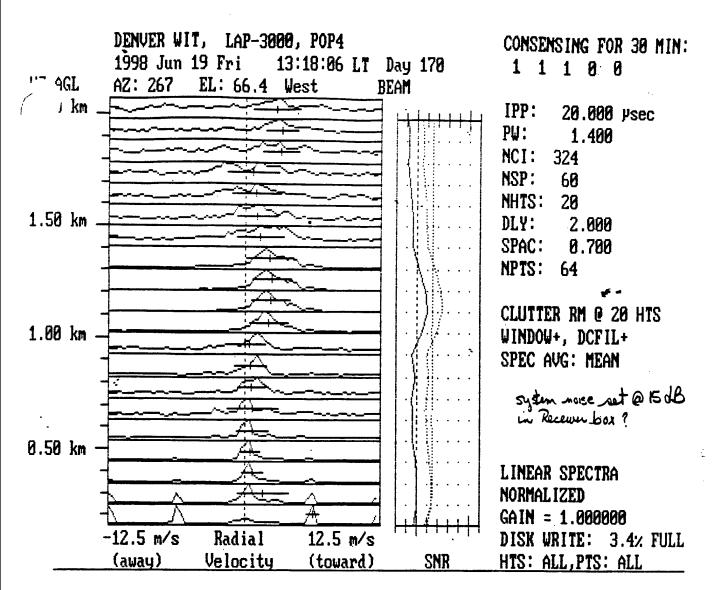
[.7-1.5 km]< Oms





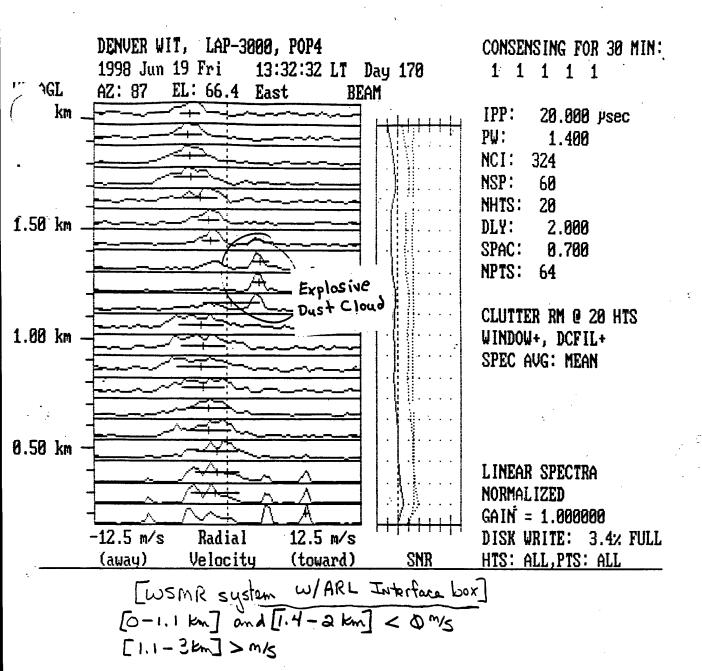
[WSMR System WAR Interface Box]

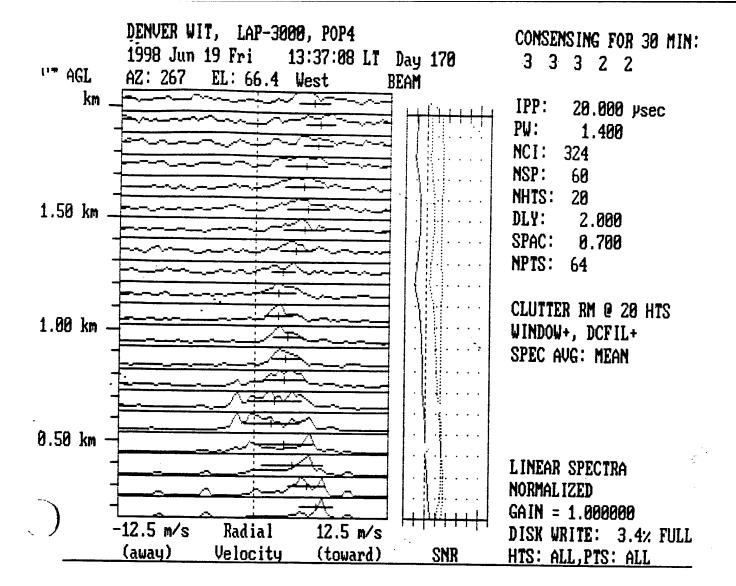
[5-1 km] > 0 ms



[WSMR System W/ARI Eleterforce box]

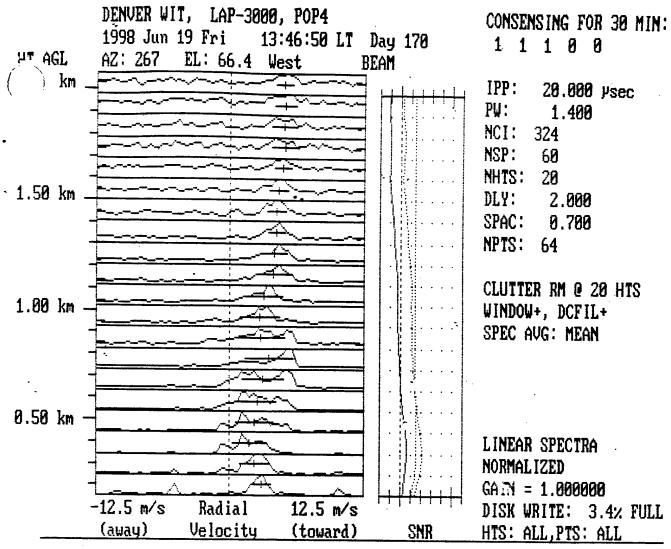
[.5-a km] > 0 m/s





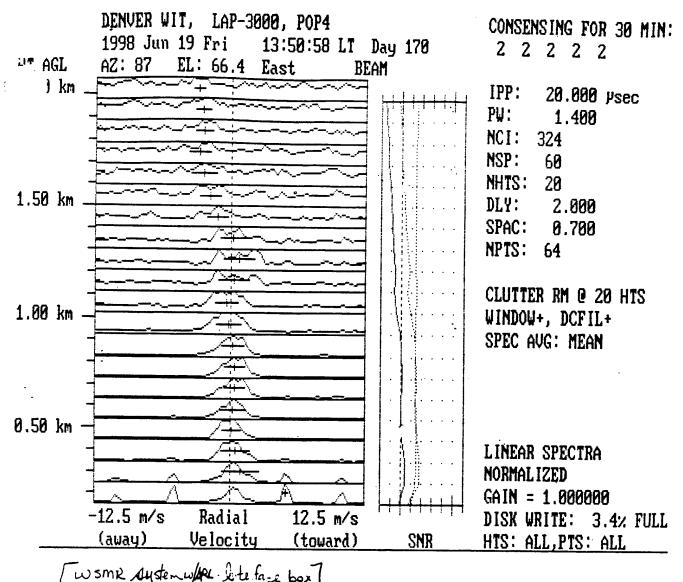
[WSMR System WARL Suturpus Box]
[0-2Km] > 0 m/s



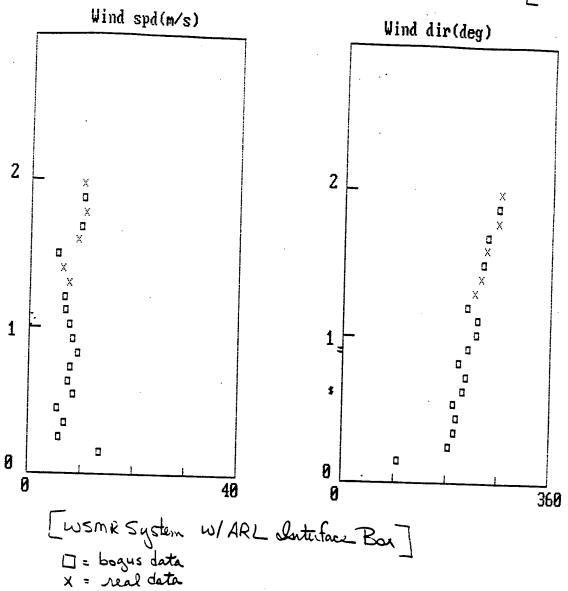


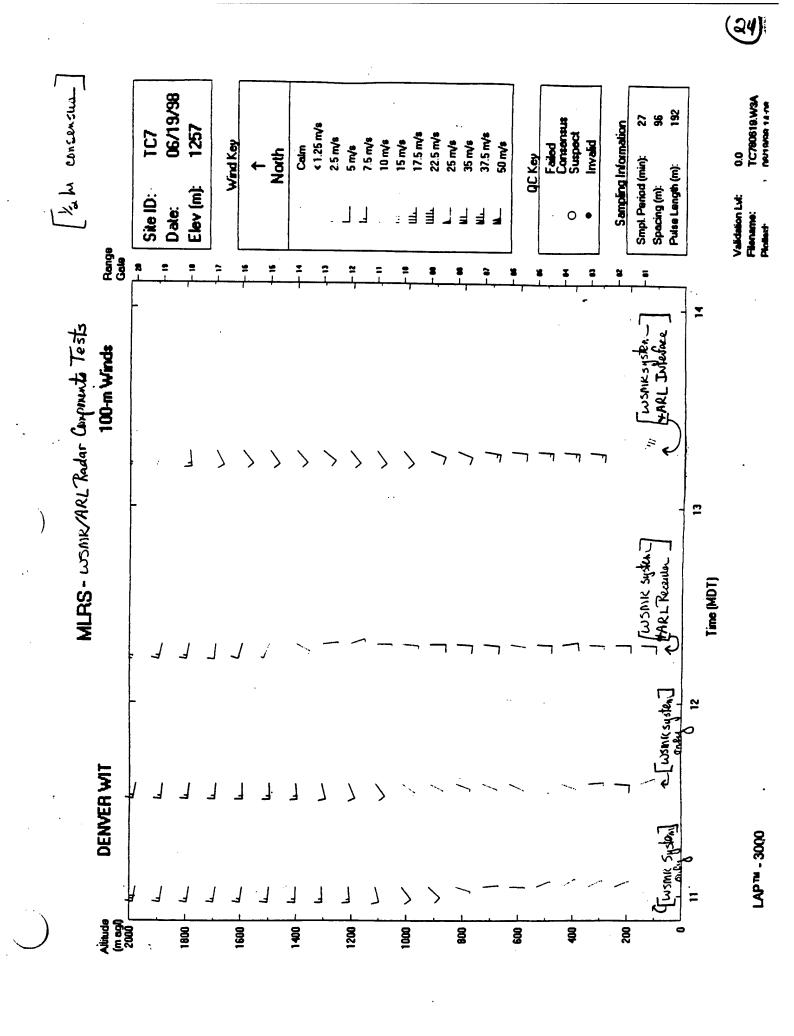
[LUSMIK System WARL Interface Box]
[0-2 Km] > 6m/s



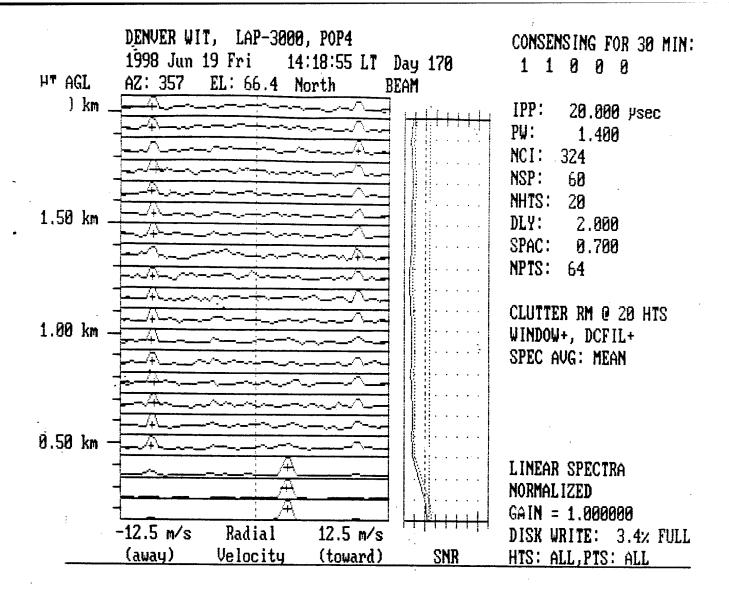


[1.5-2Km]<0 m/s









Power = generator.

WSMR Computer + Radar

POP4 - WSMR system.

ARL Receiver + Interface Box

Throut is off

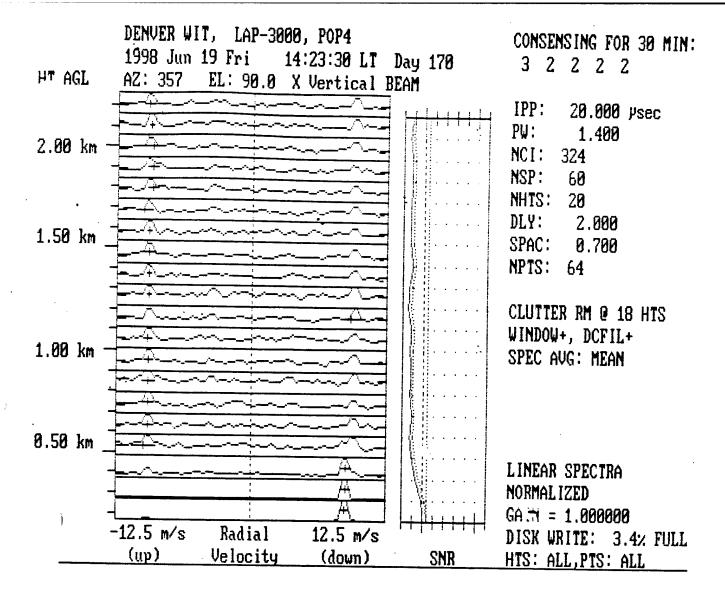
Receiver-in @ 50-2 Terminator

200 m double sampling

60 Hz Peaks should be @ 8.8 m/s

Note: Gates 1-3





Power = generation

WSMR Computer (POP4) + Radar (924 MHz)

ARL Receiver + Interface Box

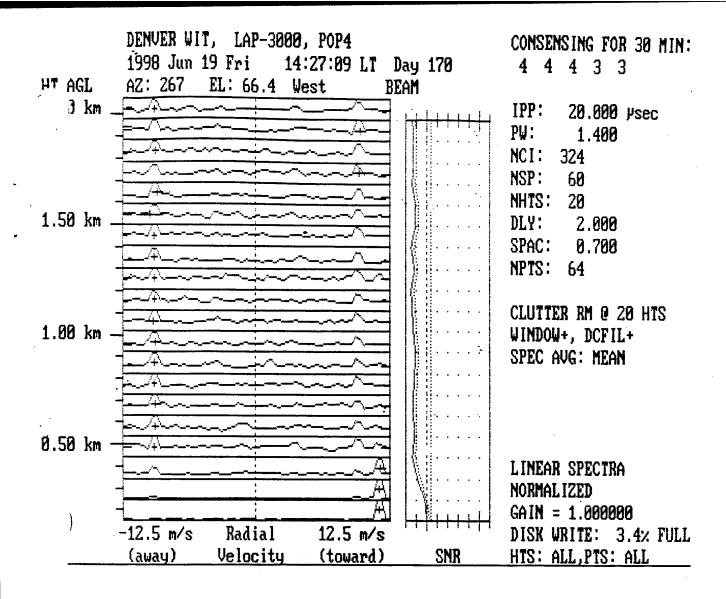
TX-out is off

Receiver-in @ 50-12 Terminator

200m double sampling

Note: gates 1-3





Power = generation

WSMR Computer (POP4) + Radar

ARL Receiver + Interface Box

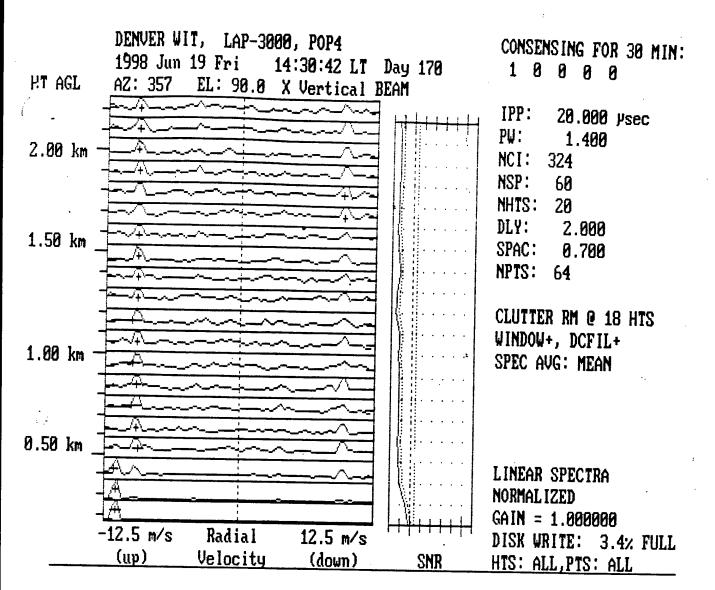
TX is off

RC @ 50-2 Texinate

Boom double sampling

Note: Gates 1-3

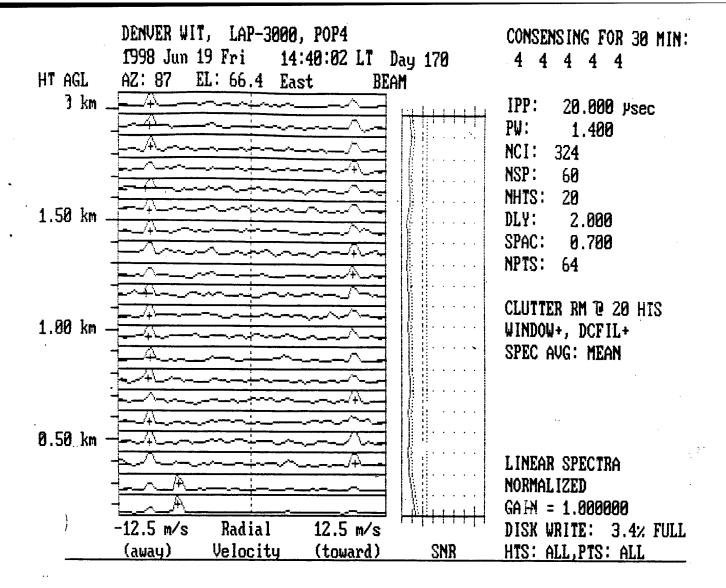




Power = generate
WSMR computer (POPM) + Radar
PoP4 ARL Receiver + Infertace Box
TX-out is off
Receiver-in @ 50-re Termental
2000 double Eampling

Gates 1-3

Note:



Power = generate

Work Computer + Radar (POP4)

ARL Receiver + Interface Box

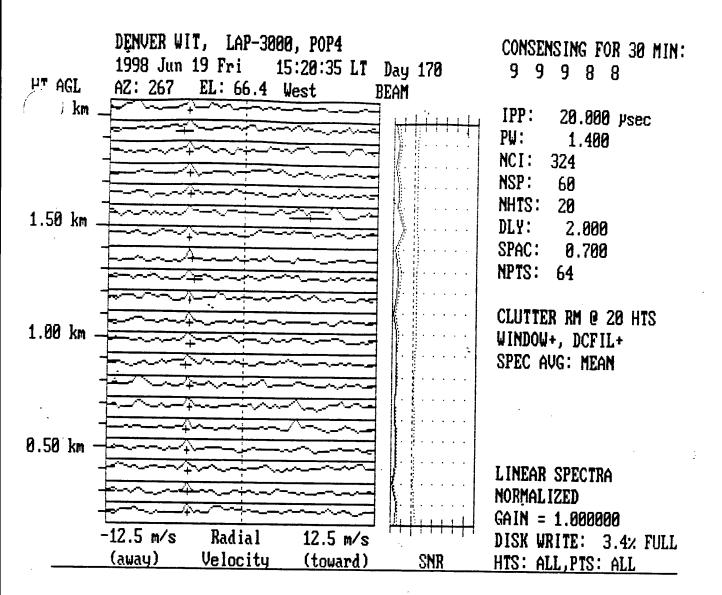
TX is off

Re @ 50-2 Terminater

200m double Sampling

Note: Gates 1-3



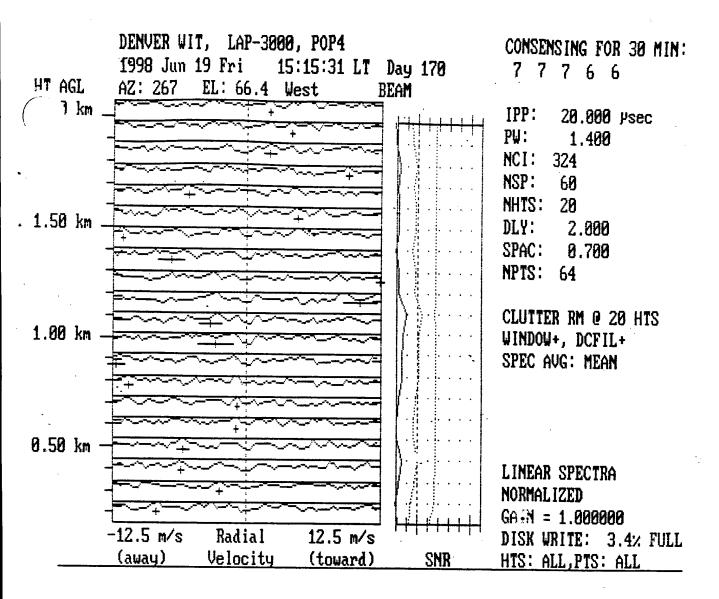


WSMR Computer (POP4), Receiver ARL Interfore Box only TX off

Reviser @ 502

- 6 ms peak is unexpected.





WSMR Computer, Receiver, JAmp, Bre-Amp=output comp 3
ARL Interfere Box
out But-Amp have 50 22 Terminator @ SMA connector to antenna
TX off

Results are as expected

# **System Parameters:**

MLRS1.PAR

Rada	ar Na	me:

LAP-3000 [

R Code:

.ing Frequency: **Maximum TX Duty:** 

924.00 MHz 12.00 %

Maximum Pulse Length: 12 microseconds

Minimum IPP: Clock Cycle:

20 microseconds 100 nanoseconds

PRE-T\R:

1500 nanoseconds

Post-T\R: PRE-Blank: 200 nanoseconds 1500 nanoseconds

Post-Blank:

700 nanoseconds

Synch: Antenna Type: 200 nanoseconds 5 beam phased

# Pulse Width System Delay

(nanosecs) (nanosecs)

400 7.00 800

1400

850 900

2800

1000

## Site Parameters:

S າ Name: **DENVER WIT** 

le:

33.25 Degrees North 106.36 Degrees West

Longitude:

Coordinated Universal Time Correction: 7.00 Hours

Site Altitude:

1257 Meters

#### **Direction Azimuth Zenith Axis Direction Code** Degrees Degrees

X Verti	cal	357	0.0	XV	0
Y Verti	cal	267	0.0	YV	1
North		357	23.6	X+	2
West		267	23.6	Y+	3
South		177	23.6	<b>X-</b>	4
East		87	23.B	<b>V</b> _	5

# Parameter Sets and Beam Sequencing:

Averaging Time in Minutes for the Wind Consensus: 30 RASS is always OFF.

# **Beam Sequencing Information**

Seq #:	Ant Dir:	Num Reps:	Par Set #:
	V 11 11 1-		•

- X Vertical 🗆 2 North
- 3 West 4
- South 1 5 East

					, WJIIK - W/0017
Parameter Set #s:	1	2	3	4	
IPP (microsecs):	20	50	43	20	
Pulse Width (nanosecs):	1400	1400	2800	400	<u> 2 % 2</u>
De' 'nanosecs):	2000	2200	3300	1600	= 6 =
( g (nanosecs):	700	1400	1400	400	
# 🏎 Heights:	20	25	22	25	
# Coherent Integrations:	324	130	180	10	
# points in FFT:	64	64	64	64	
- # Spectra averaged:	60	62	42	20	
# Code Bits:	0	<b>4</b> ·.	. 0	0	
TX Duty (%):	7.00	11.20	6.51	2.00	
Dwell Time (secs):	28.04	29.28	23.69	2.74	
Full Scale Velocity (m/s):	12.53	12.49	10.49	405.84	
First Gate Height (m AGL):	165	195	345	120	
Last Gate Height (m AGL):	2160	5235	4755	1560	

### Wind processing parameters:

Consensus Averaging window: Oblique modes = 4.00 m\s Vertical mode = 2.00 m\s Percent required to pass consensus: Oblique modes > 60 %

Vertical mode = 60 %

Max Height for clutter removal = 2000 meters.

The Vertical beam will be used in wind calculations. The mean wind spectral averaging routine will be used.

#### ור ¬rameters:

Au. start disabled.

No hard copies generated.

Data height measurements are recorded as above ground level.

EGA monitor being used as display device.

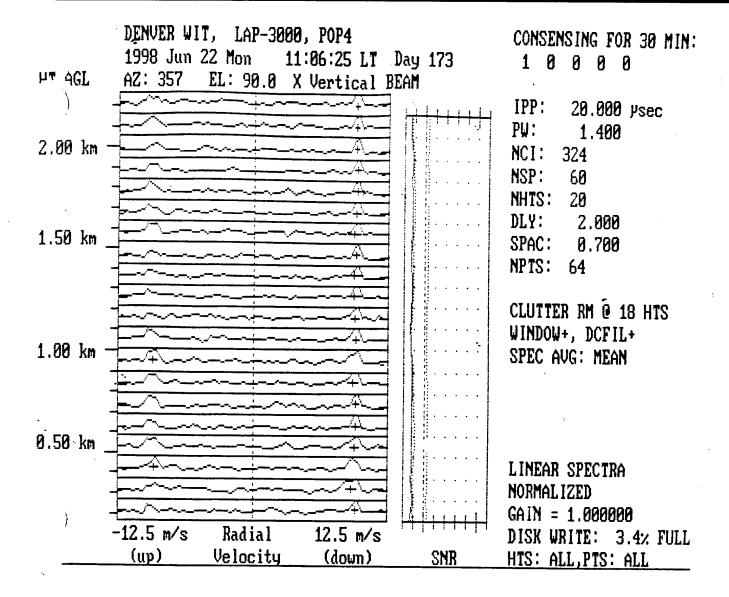
Moment data will be written to c:\radar\data\.

Consensus averaged data will be written to c:\radar\data directory.

LAP will run in real time mode.

LAP will not recalculate moments data from archived spectral data products.

Log data will be written to c:\radar\data\D95132a.LOG

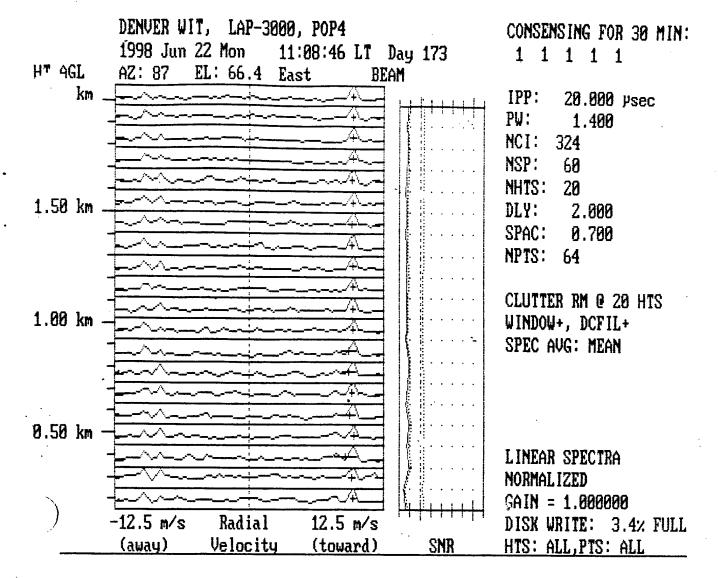


WSMR system only
TX off
RC-in 50-22 Termination
generation power

Symmetric Peaks @ #8.8 11/5

"60Hz Test"



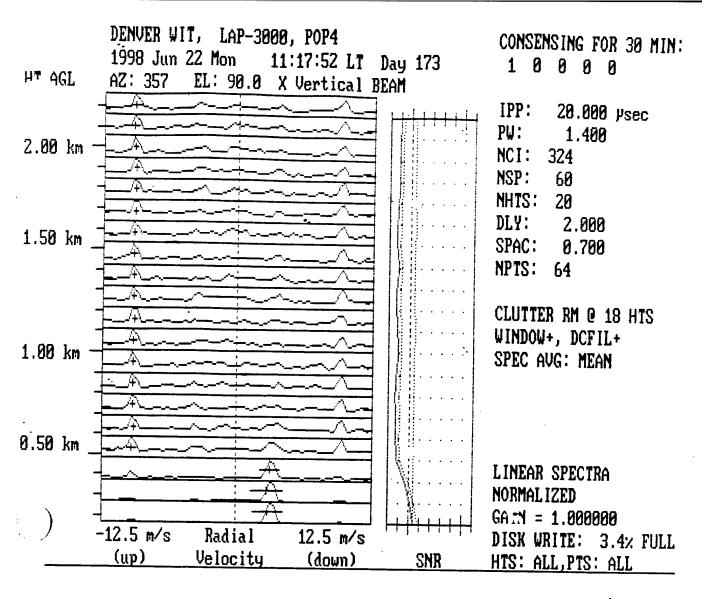


wsme system only
agenerator power
TX off
RC-in 50-2 Terminator

"60Hz Test"

Peaks were consistent, no migration





WSMR System

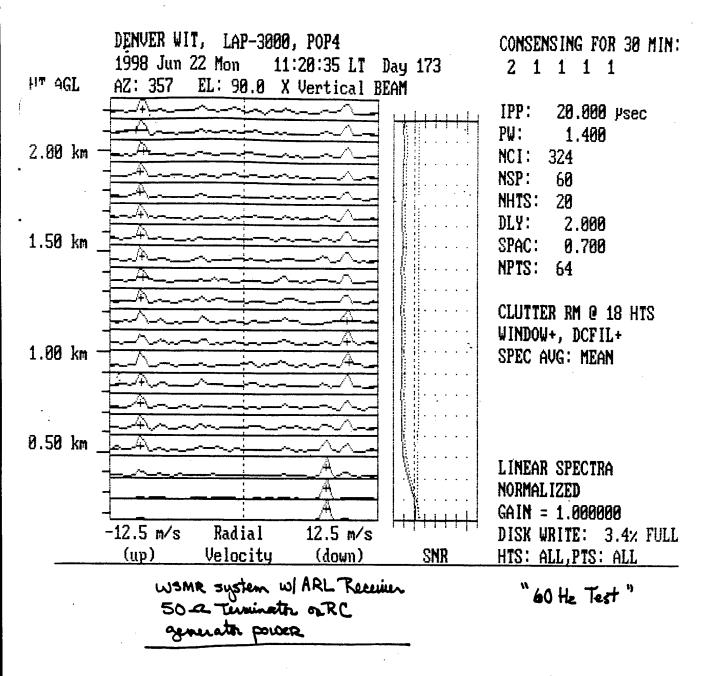
ARL Receiver

50-2 Terminate on Receiver

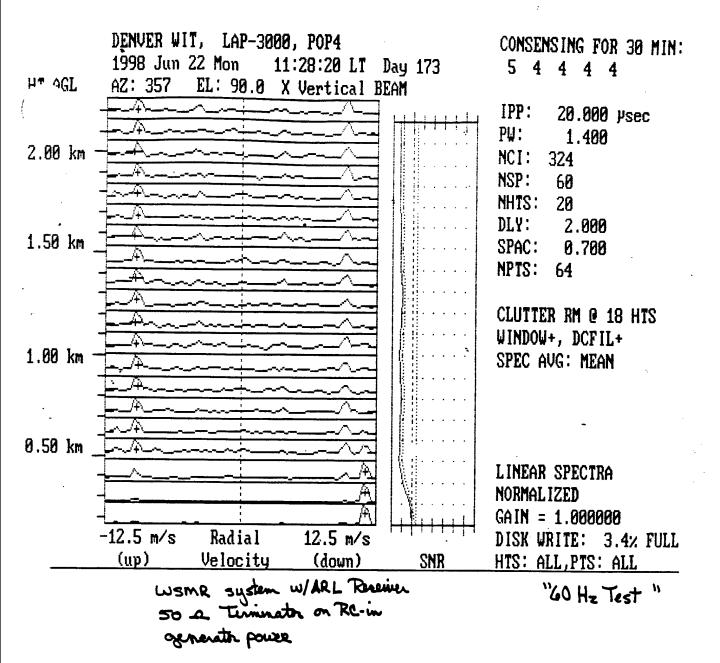
agenerates power

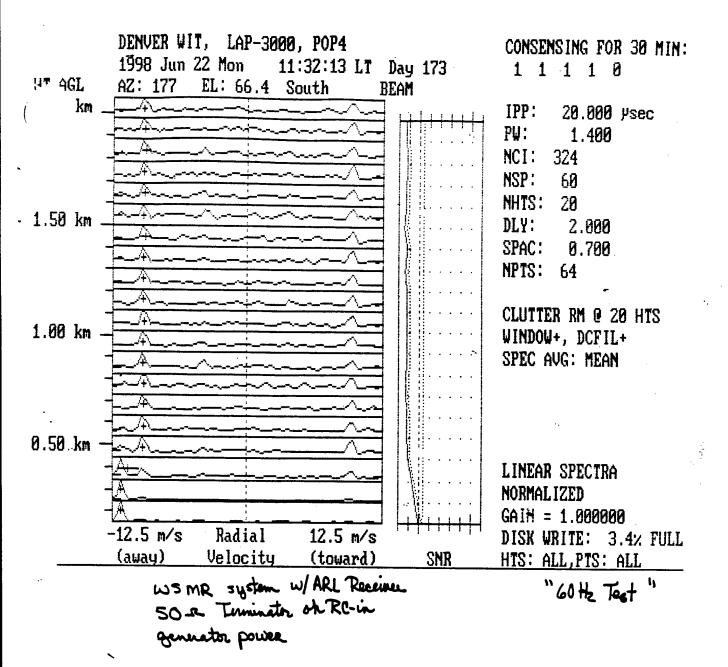
" 60 Hz Test "



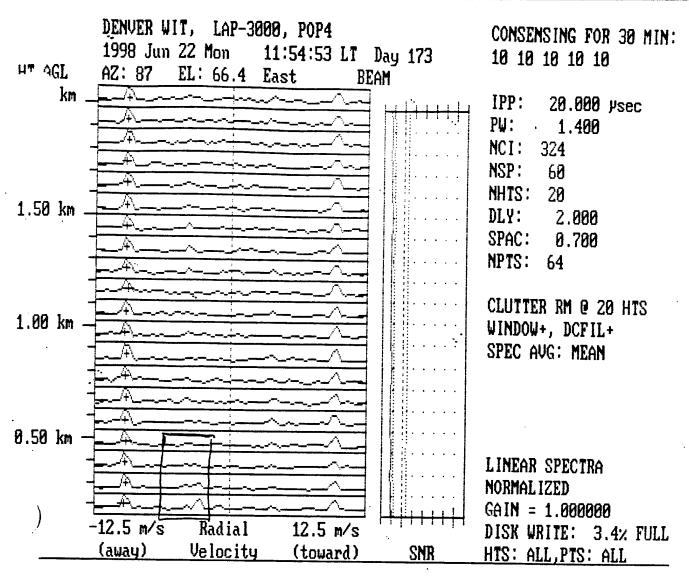








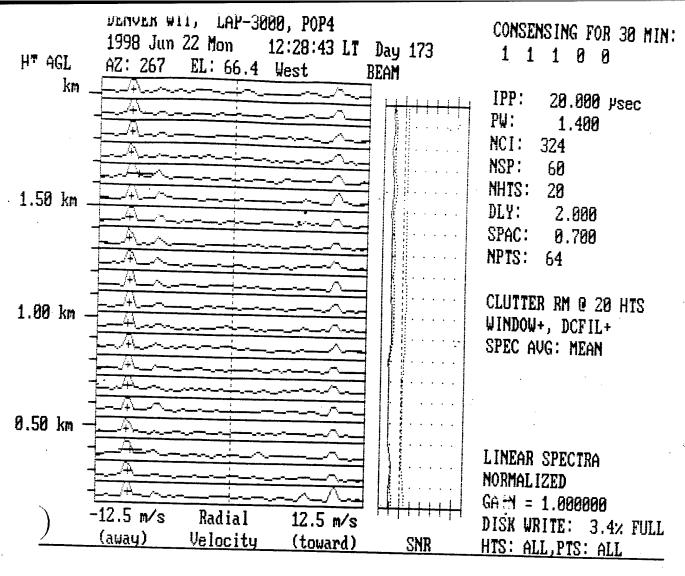




WSMR System W/ARL Receiver - in 50.12 Terminates on Perevier - in Generator power

"60 Hz Test"

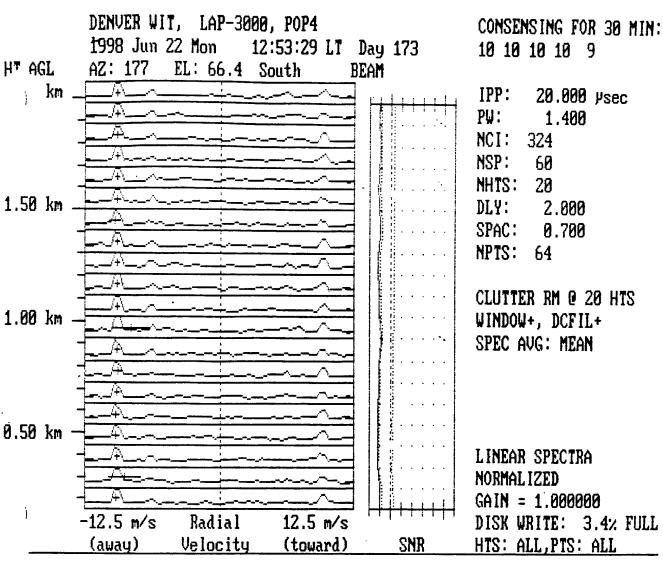
<sup>&</sup>gt; migrating peak in gates 1-3 still present; ±8.8m/s peaks are now evident in 1-3 gates.



"WHz Test"

WSMR system w/ARL Interface Box 50 - 2 Turninater on RC-in Generater Power

± 8.8 ms peaks

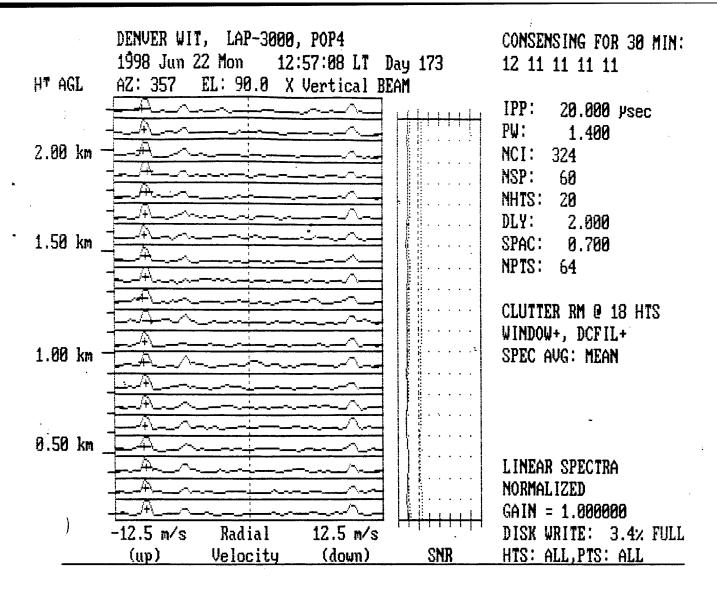


WSMR system W/ARL Interface Box 50 r Terminator on RC-in Generator Power

"60Hz Test"

± 8.8 m/s Peaks



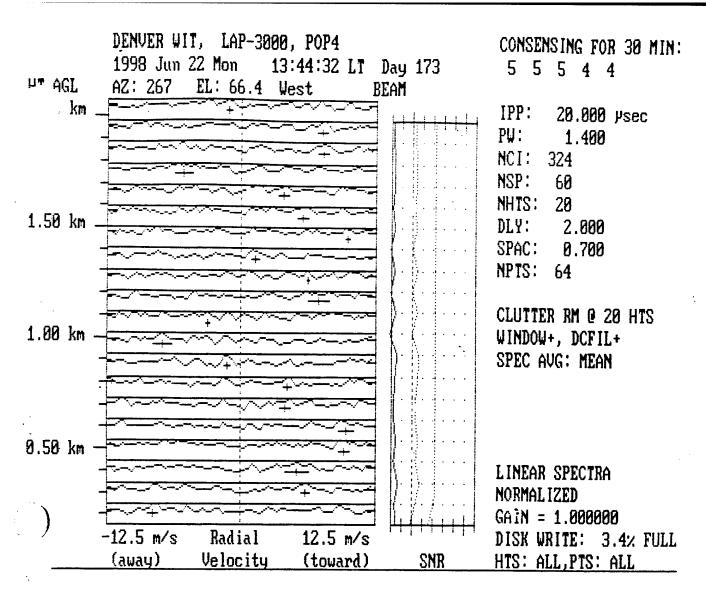


WSMR system Wy Interface Box 50-22 Terminate on RC-in Ogenerator Power

±8.8 m/s Peaks

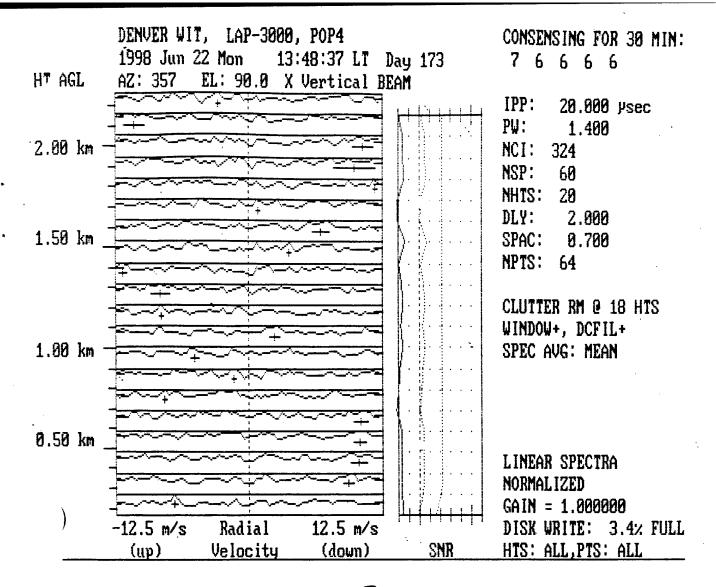
"60 Hz Test"



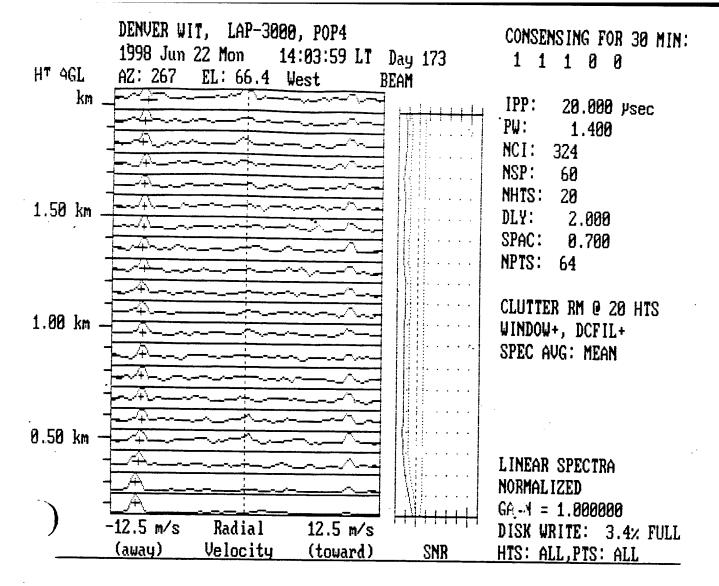


WSMR system WARL Receiver only 50-12 Terminator on final amplifier [before phase shifter + antenna] generator power

Resulto: ementent w/ WSMR system only all noise



WSMR system W/ARL Receive only
TX off
50-2 terminator on final amplifier before phase shefter + antenna
generator power

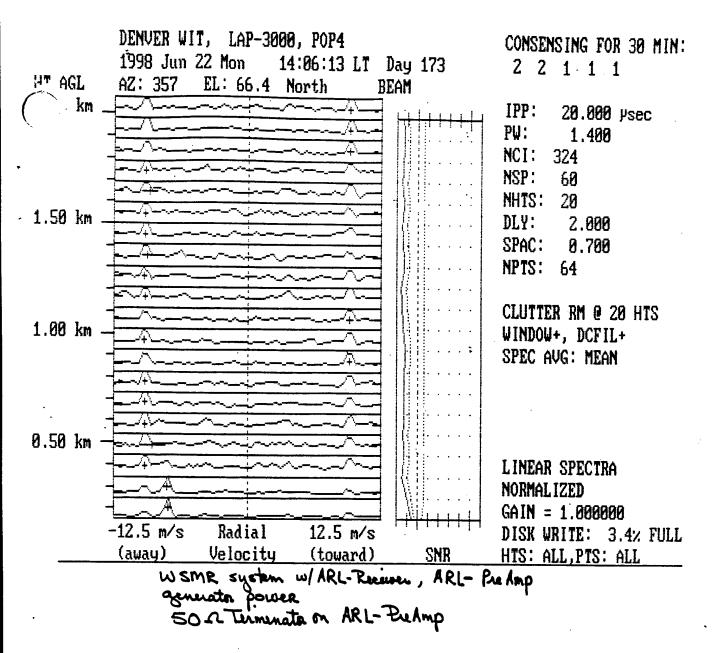


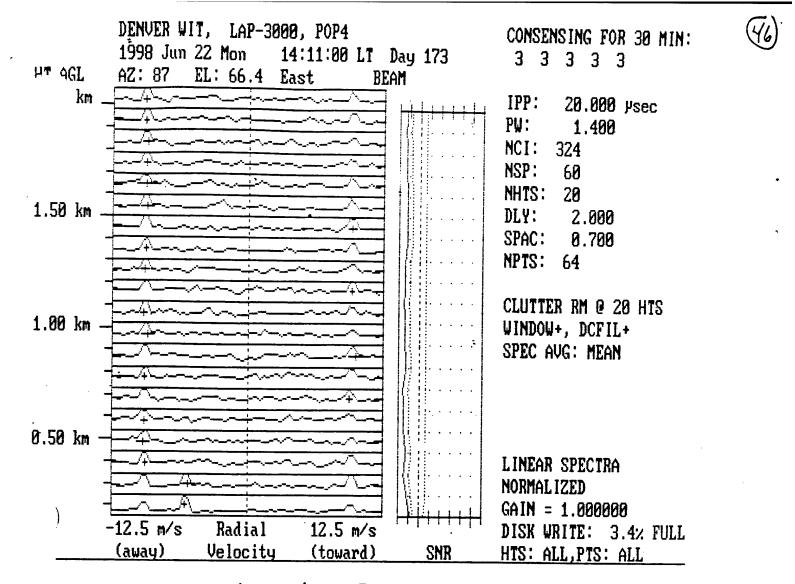
wsmr system w/ ARL-Receiver + ARL-PreAmp generator powers TX off 50 a Terminator on ARL-PreAmp

[note: \$8.8 m/s peaks + there should all be noise.]

77

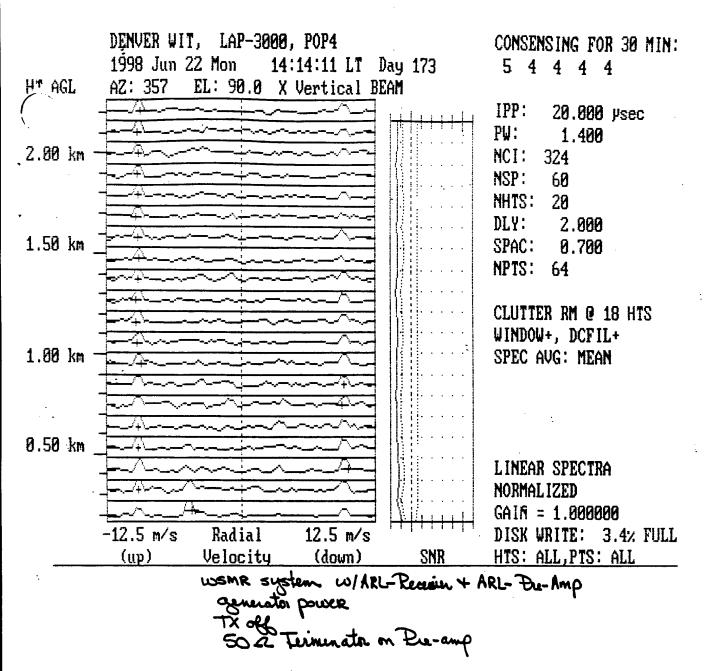




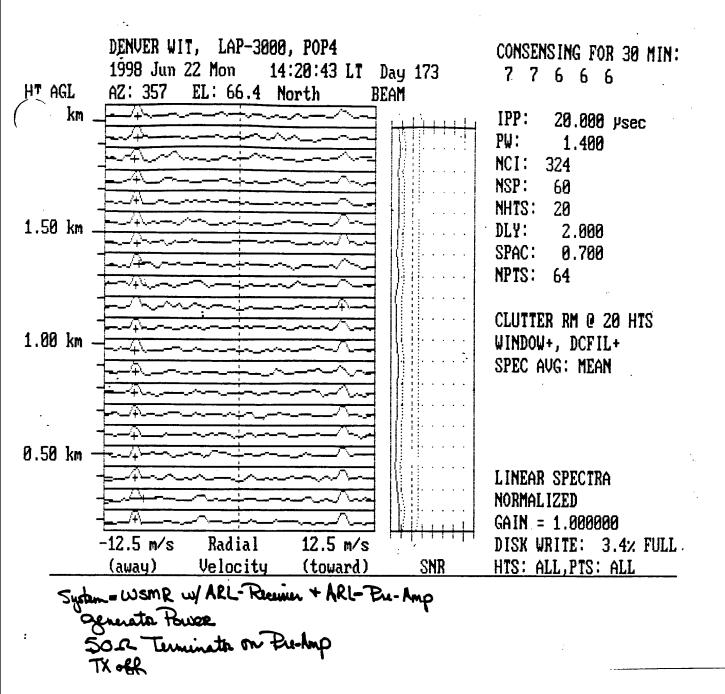


WEMR = ystem w/ARL-Receiver and ARL-Pre-typ Tope Phoneshifted anders generator power

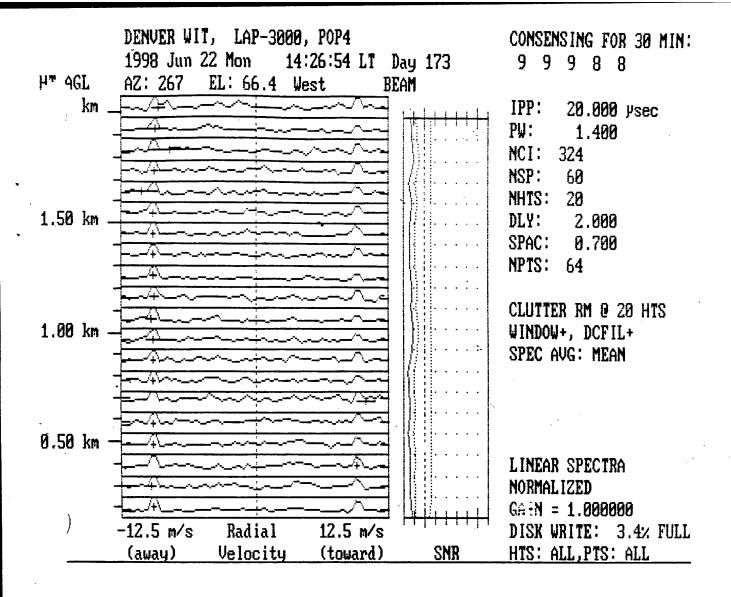
generator power TX off 50-c Terminator on final amplific (le-Amp)



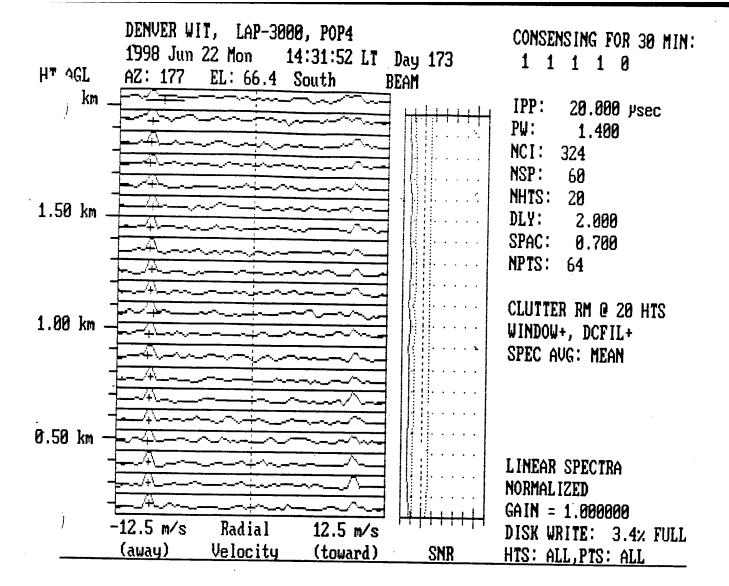






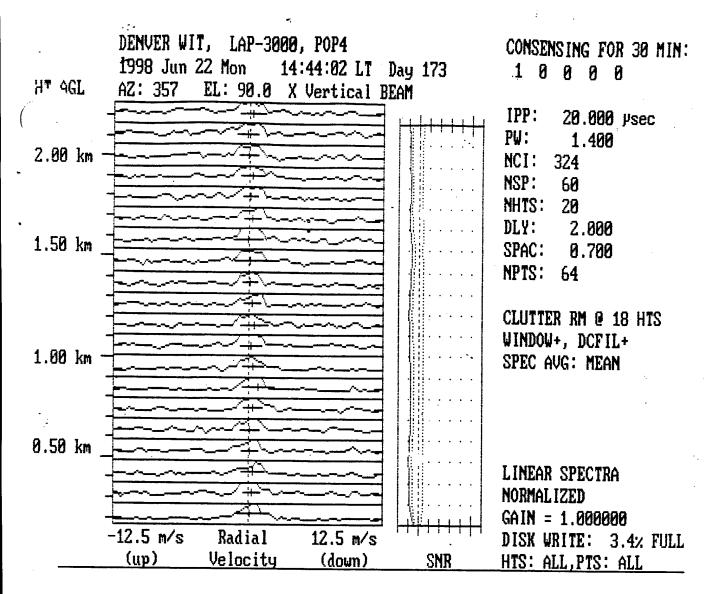


WSMR-oyotem w/ ARL-Receiver + ARL-Be Amp Generator Powere 50-R Terminator on ARL-PreAmp TX off



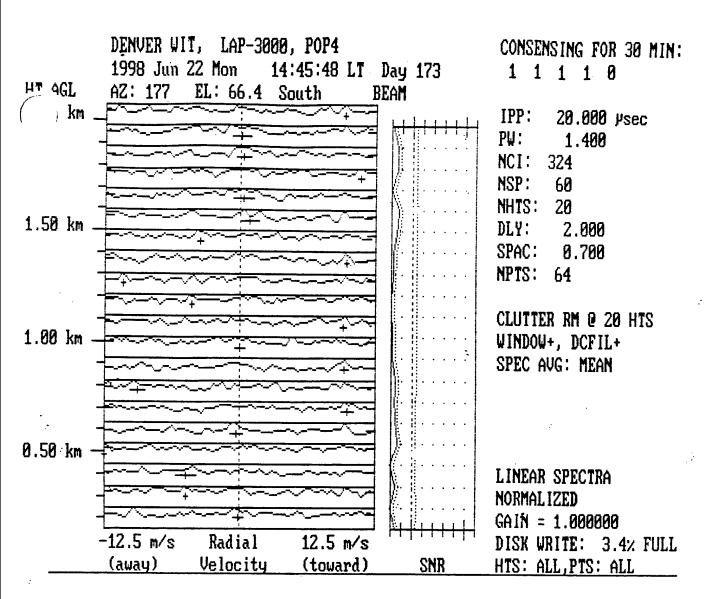
WSMR System W/ARL-Reconien + ARL-Bulmp (final amp)
generates power
TX off
502 Terminates on finalamphifier





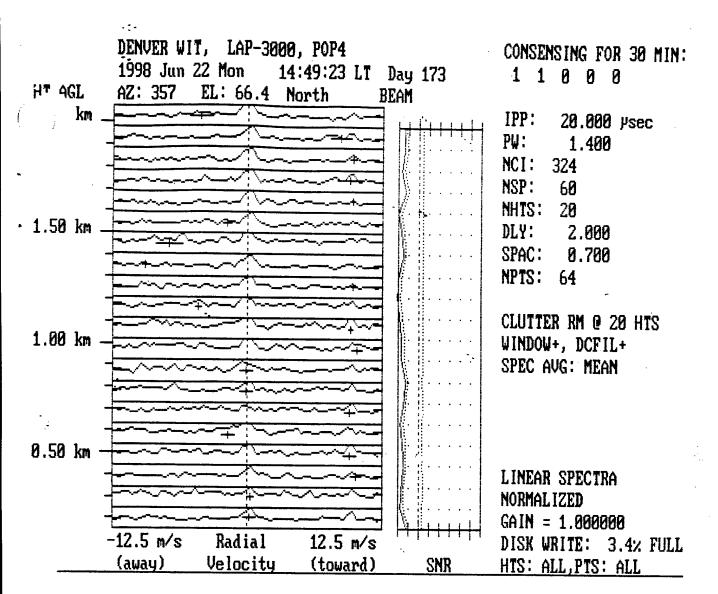
WSMR System W/ARL-Be Amp
Generation power
50 a Termination on ARL-Be-Amp
TX off
(very first screen)
Note: centerpeak!





WSMR System W/ ARL-Buffing

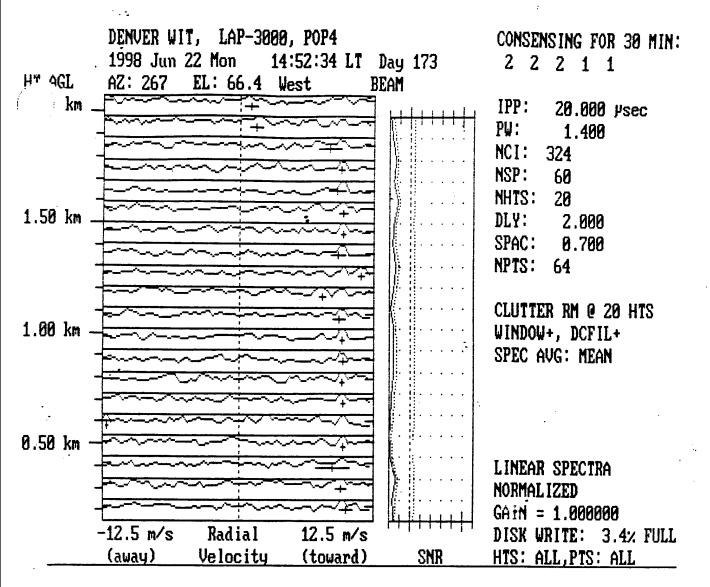
Aspertor power TX obl 50\_2 Terminater on ARL- De-Amp



WSMR System WARL-BUAMP Generator power 50 2 Terminator on ARL-Bu-Amp TX off

Note: center peak + +8,8 m/s pook



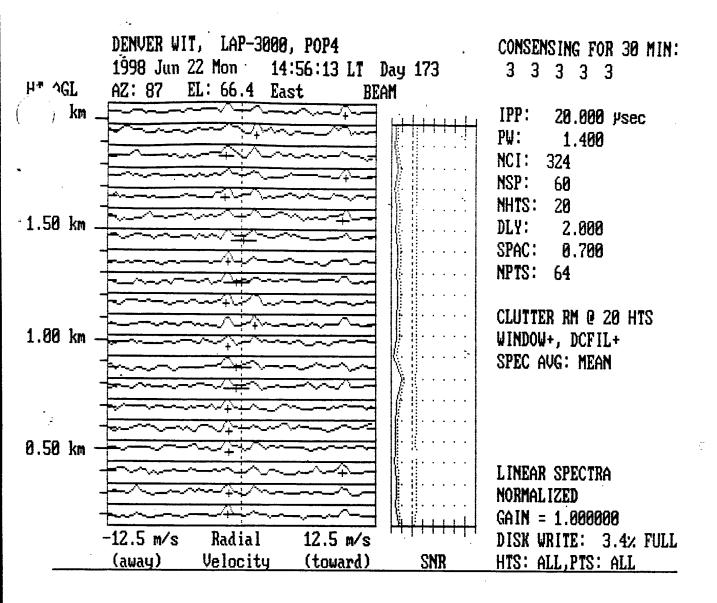


Generator Power

Soca Terminator on ARL-BurAmp

TX off

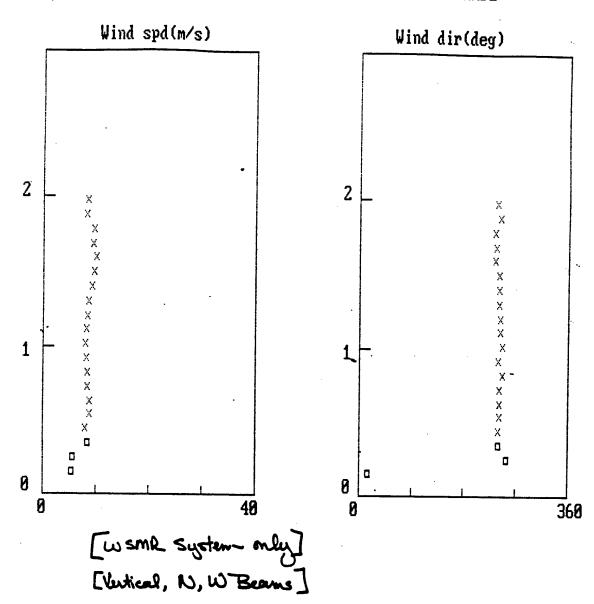




Quenator power

50 a Terminator on ARL-BreAmp

TX off



# Appendix B

Results from Elevating the Ground Clutter Removal Height of the Reconstructed 924-MHz Wind Profiling Radar System

## **System Parameters:**

ARL01.PAR

Radar Name:

LAP-3000

Radar Code:

100

ting Frequency:

./mum TX Duty:

924.00 MHz 10.00 %

Maximum Pulse Length: 12 microseconds

Minimum IPP:

20 microseconds

Clock Cycle:

100 nanoseconds

PRE-T\R:

1000 nanoseconds

. Post-T\R:

200 nanoseconds

PRE-Blank:

1000 nanoseconds

Post-Blank:

700 nanoseconds

Synch:

200 nanoseconds

Antenna Type:

5 beam phased

## Pulse Width System Delay (nanosecs) (nanosecs)

400

1000

700

1100

1400 2800

1200 1400

### Site Parameters:

Strian Name:

radar.par

:et

40.05 Degrees North

L. ditude:

115.03 Degrees West

Coordinated Universal Time Correction: 0.00 Hours Site Altitude:

1265 Meters

#### Direction Azimuth Zenith **Axis Direction Code Degrees Degrees** X Vertical 354 0.0 XV 0 Y Vertical 264 0.0 YV North 354 15.5 X+ West

264 South 174 East 84

15.5 15.5

15.5

Y+ X-

## Parameter Sets and Beam Sequencing:

Averaging Time in Minutes for the Wind Consensus: 15 RASS is always OFF.

## **Beam Sequencing Information**

Seq #:	Ant Dir:	Num Reps: P	ar Set #:
1	X Vertical	1	3
2	North	1	3
3	West	1	3
4	South	1	3
5	East	1	3

Transaced the Max Ht fram. 8 Ju

Parameter Set#'s:	1	2	3	4
IPP (microsecs):	23	23	59	20
Puice Width (nanosecs):	400	700	2800	400
(nanosecs):	1600	1700	3300	1600
Specing (nanosecs):	400	700	.1400	400
# Gate Heights:	25	25	36	25
# Coherent Integrations:	340	340	180	10
# points in FFT:	64	64	64	64
# Spectra averaged:	42	42	42	20
# Code Bits:	8	0	0	0
TX Duty (%):	1.74	3.04	4.75	2.00
Dwell Time (secs):	24.03	24.03	32.00	2.74
Full Scale Velocity (m/s):	10.37	10.37	7.64	405.56
First Gate Height (m AGL):	90	90	285	90
Last Gate Height (m AGL):	1529	2608	7630	1529

### Wind processing parameters:

Consensus Averaging window: Oblique modes = 2.00 m/s \
Percent required to pass consensus: Oblique modes = 60 %

Vertical mode = 3.00 m\s Vertical mode = 60 %

Max Height for clutter removal = 4500 meters.

The Vertical beam will be used in wind calculations.

The mean wind spectral averaging routine will be used.

### arameters:

Auto start disabled.

No hard copies generated.

Data height measurements are recorded as above ground level.

EGA monitor being used as display device.

Moment data will be written to c:\radar\data\.

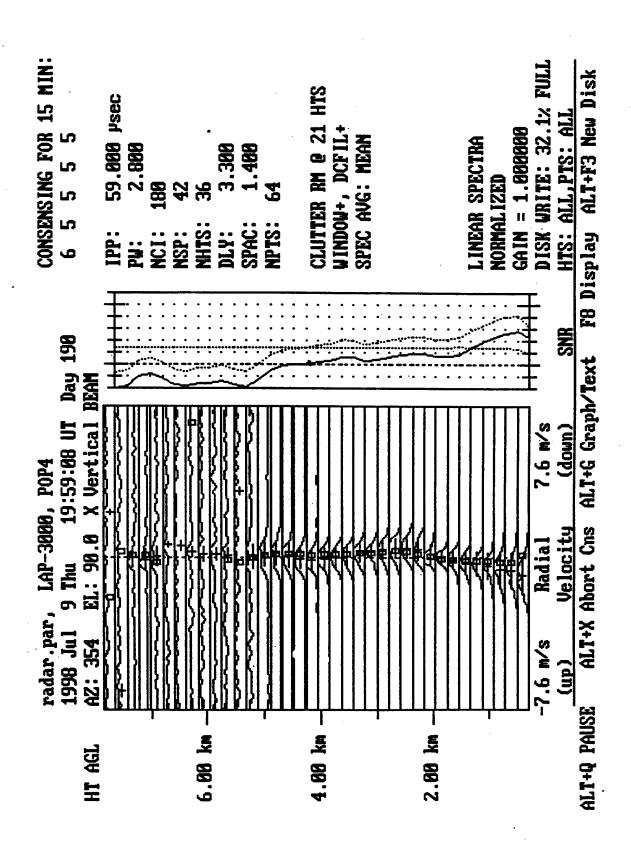
Consensus averaged data will be written to c:\radar\data

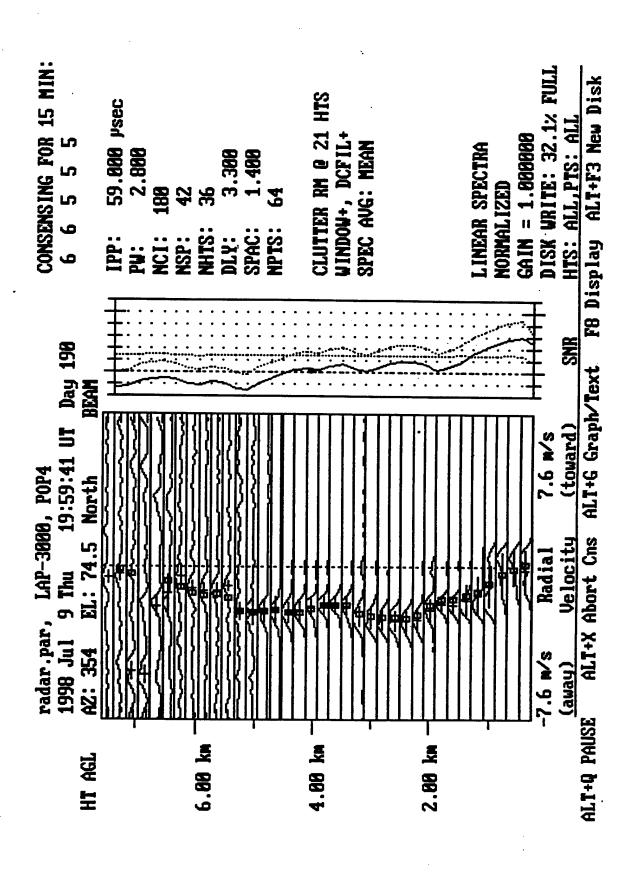
directory.

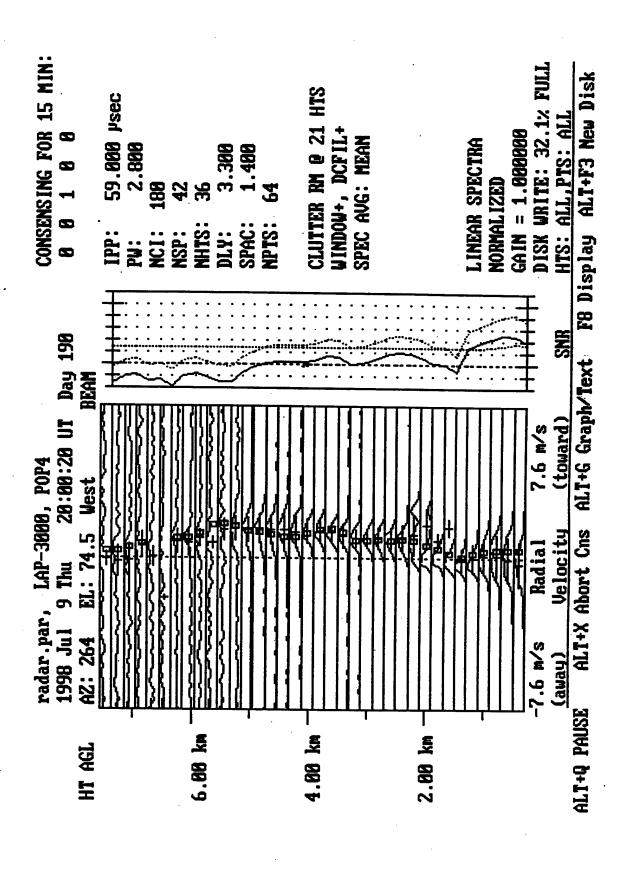
LAP will run in real time mode.

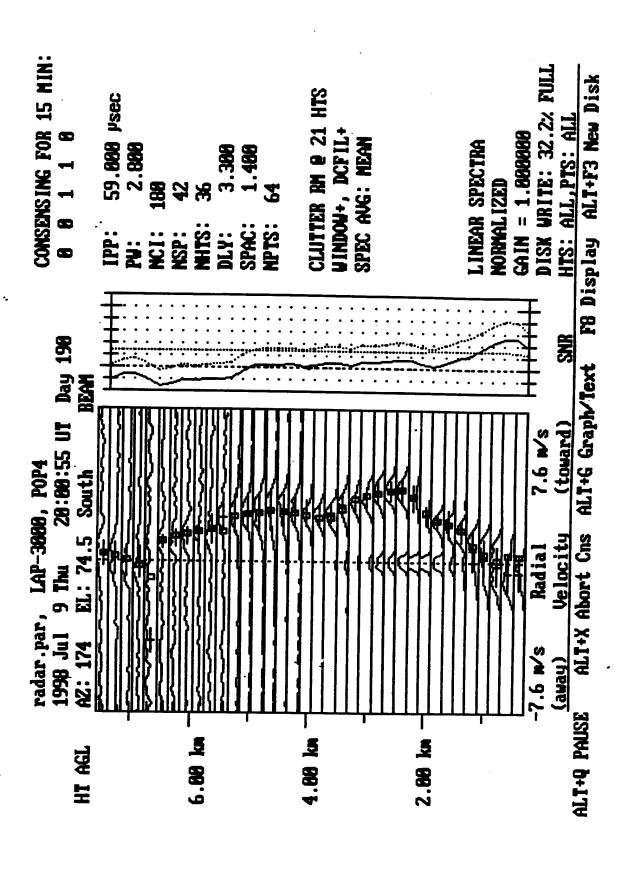
LAP will not recalculate moments data from archived spectral data products.

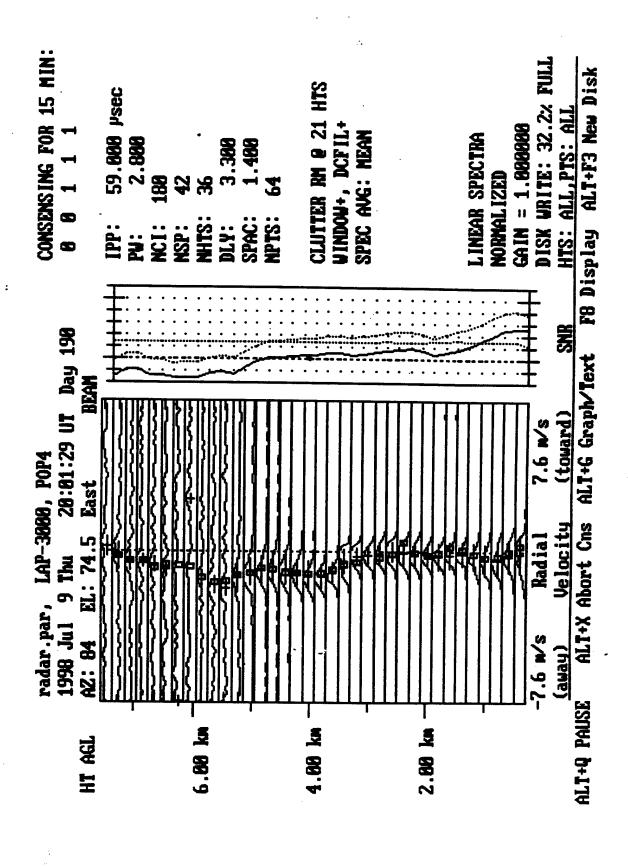
Log data will be written to c:\radar\data\D95132a.LOG

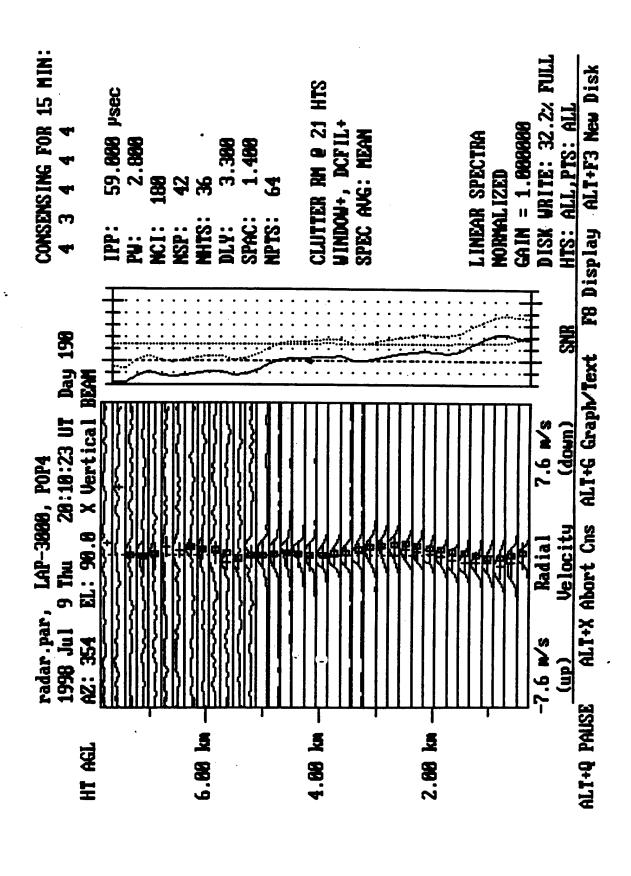


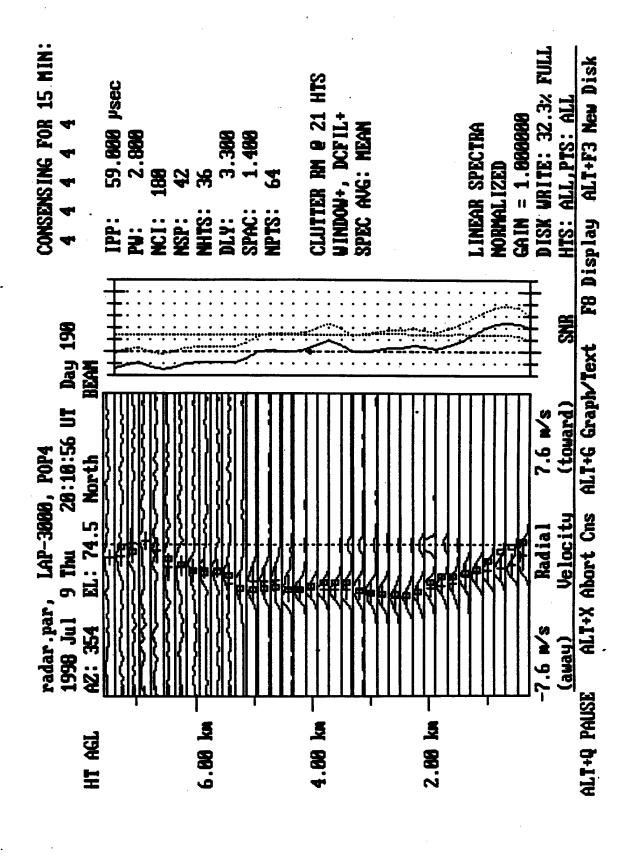


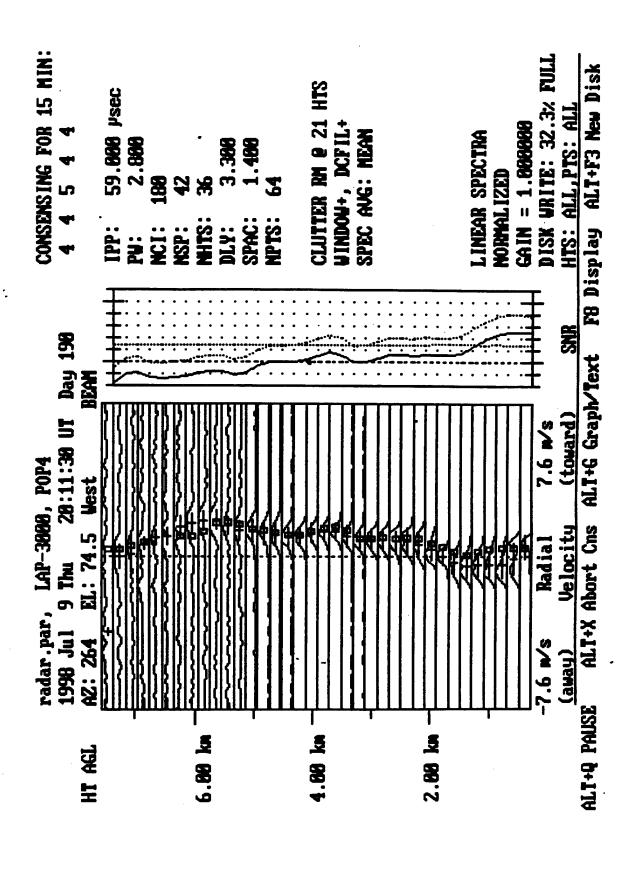






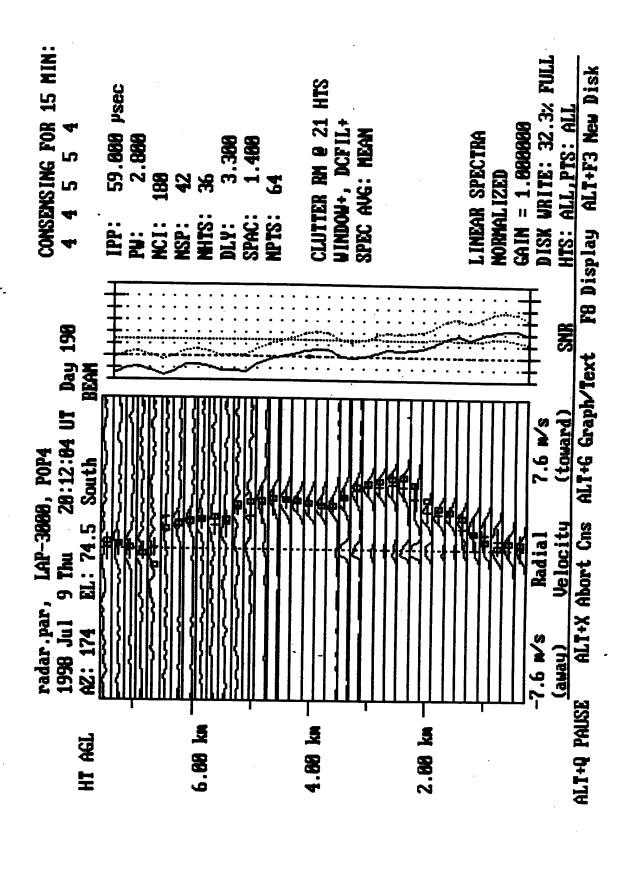


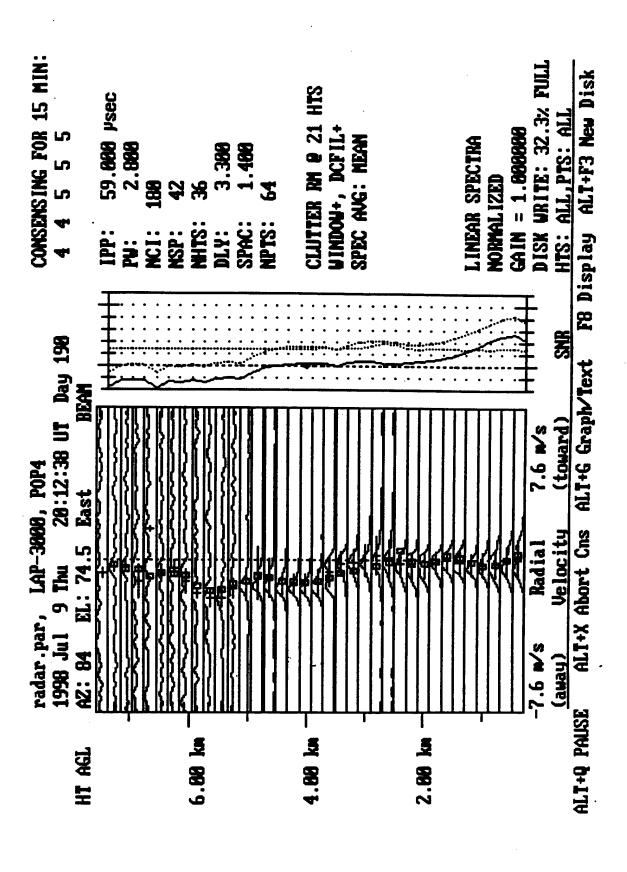


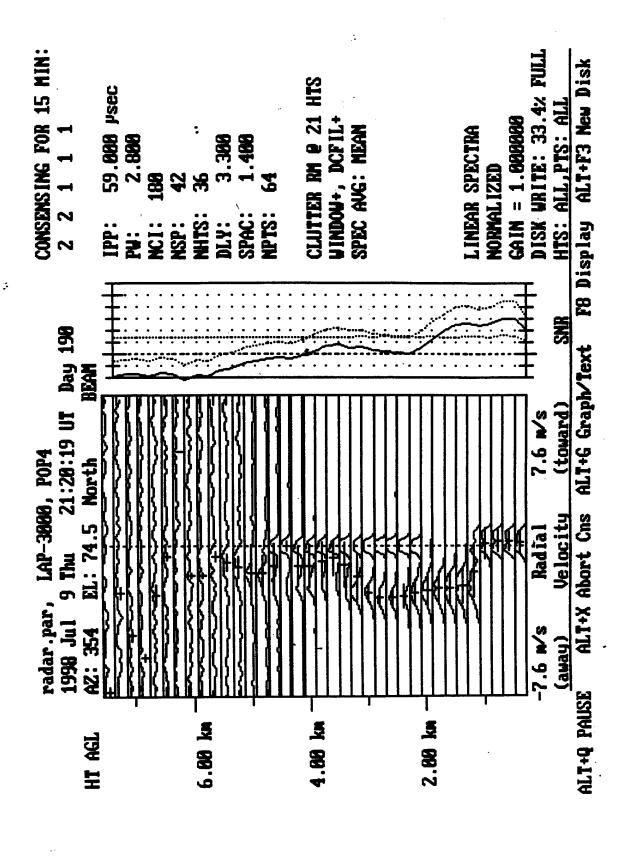


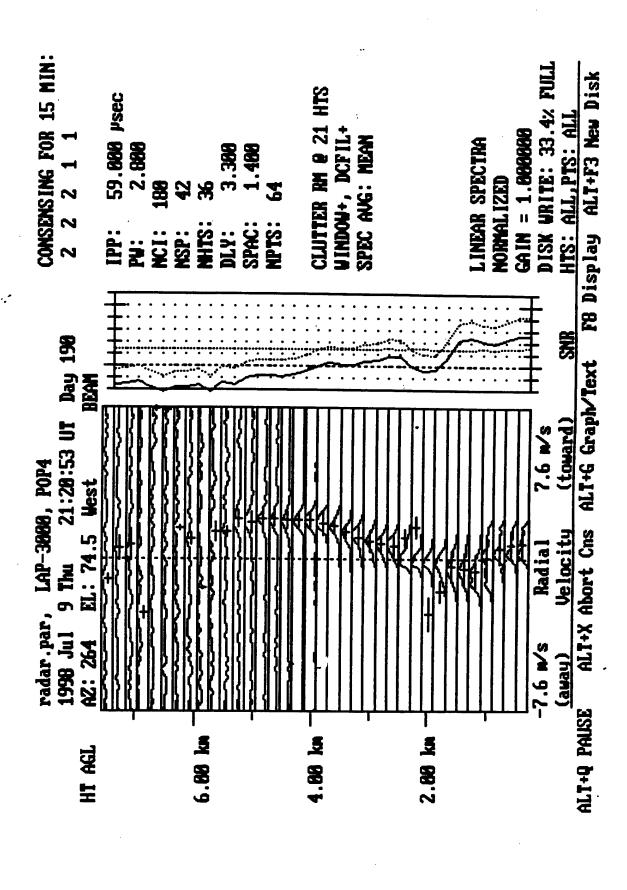
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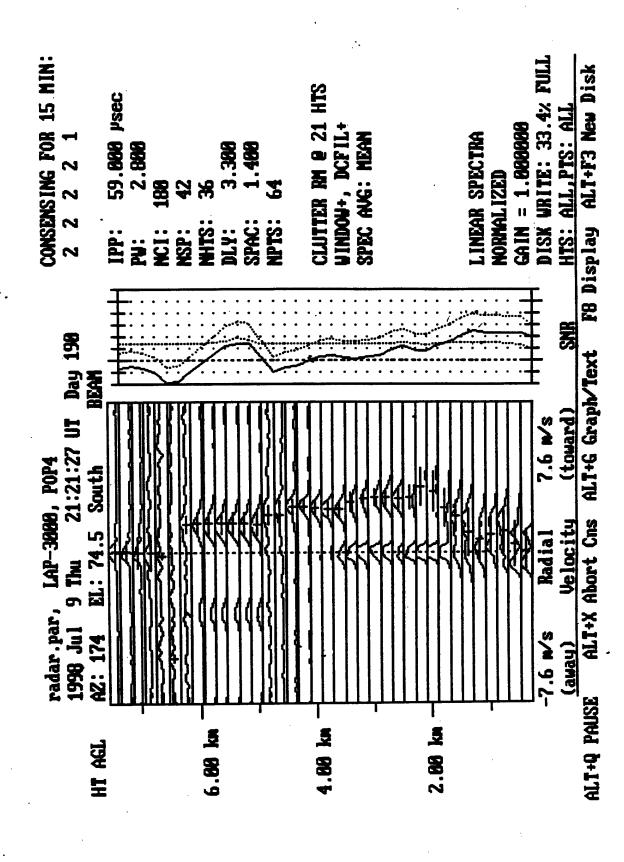


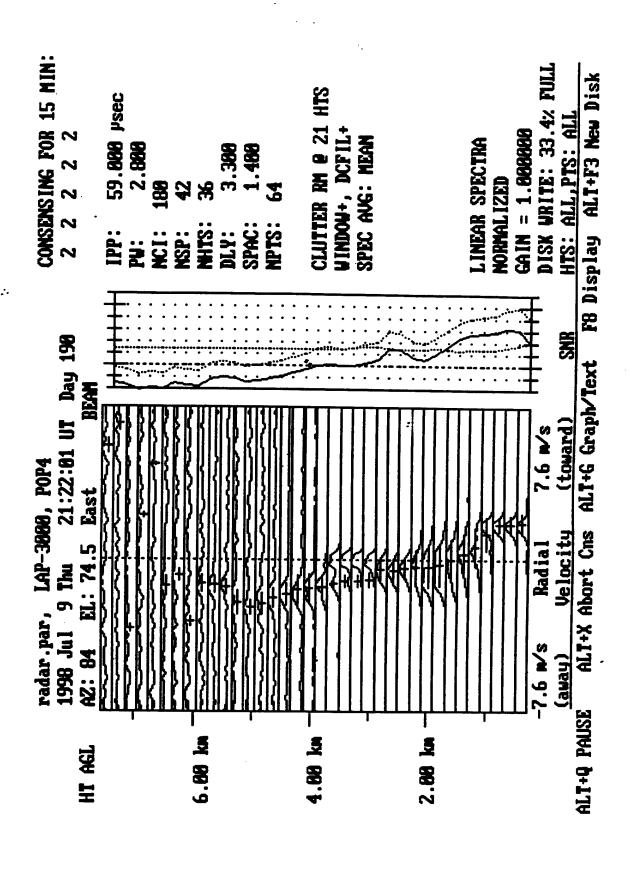




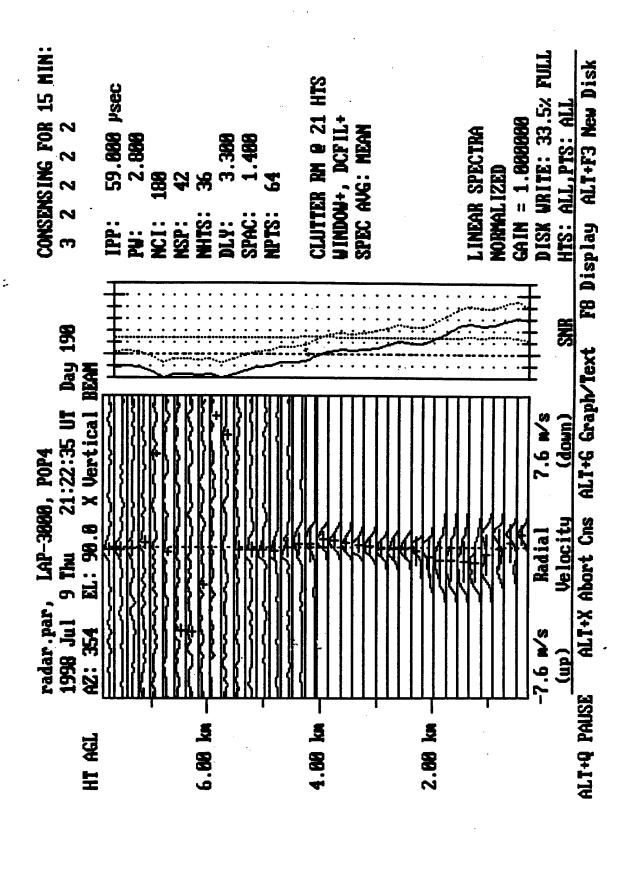


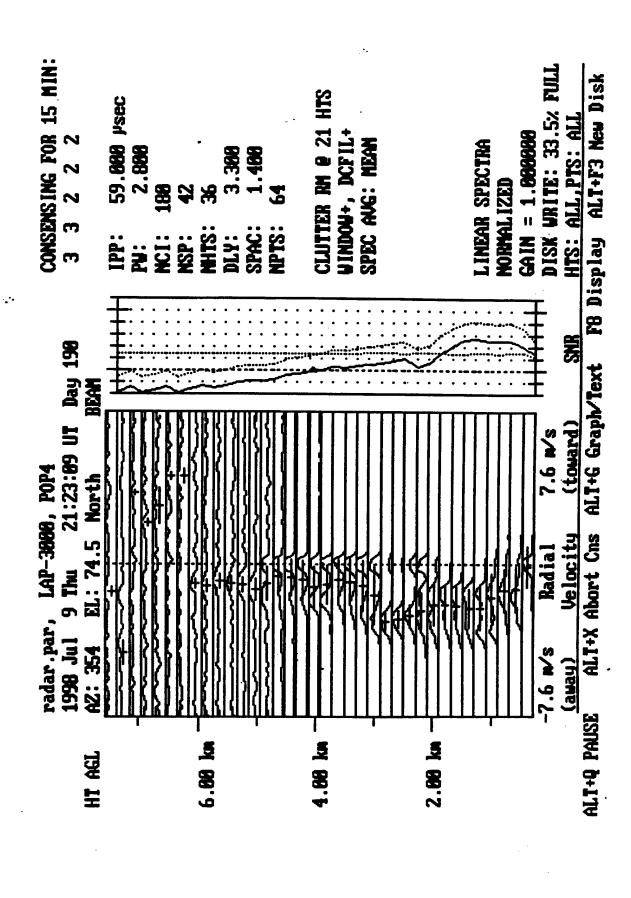


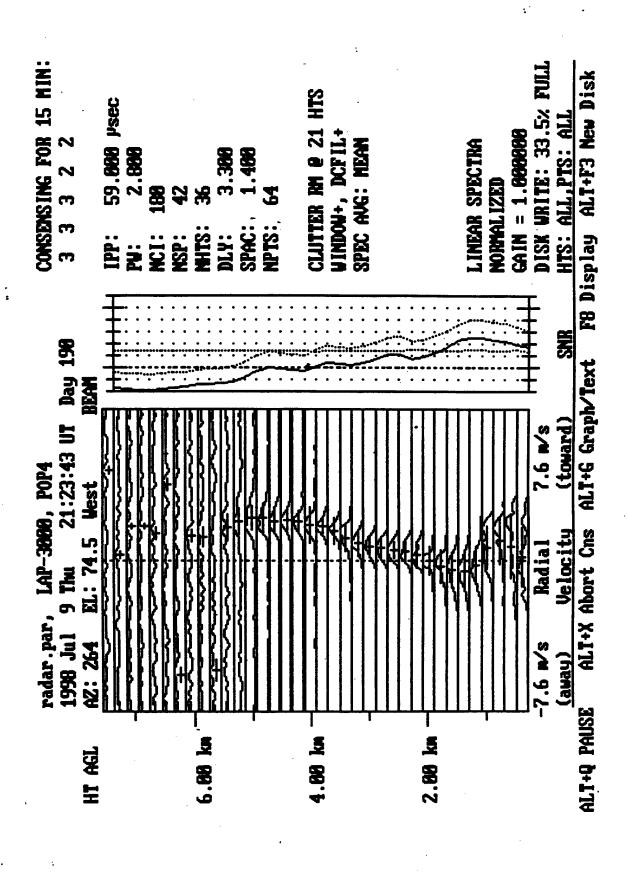


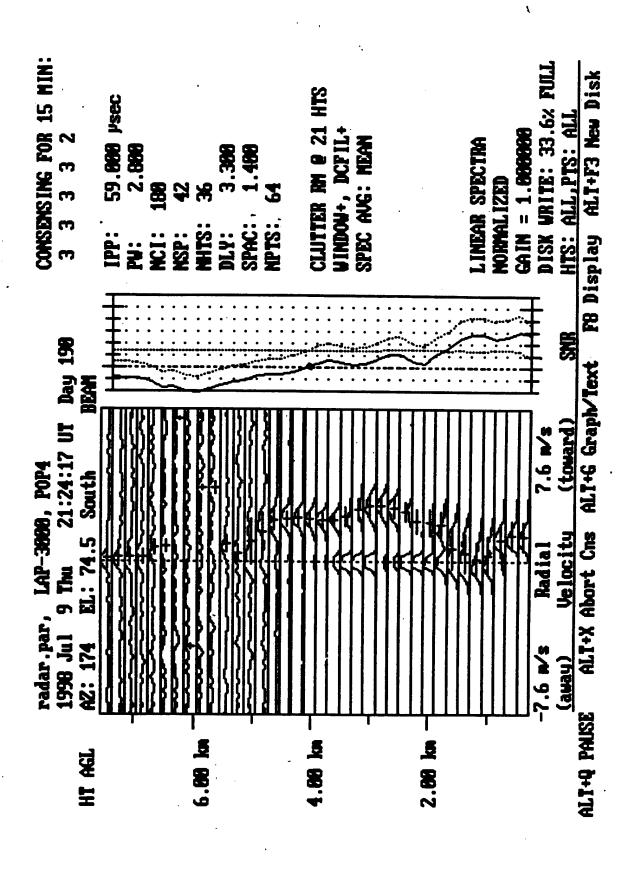


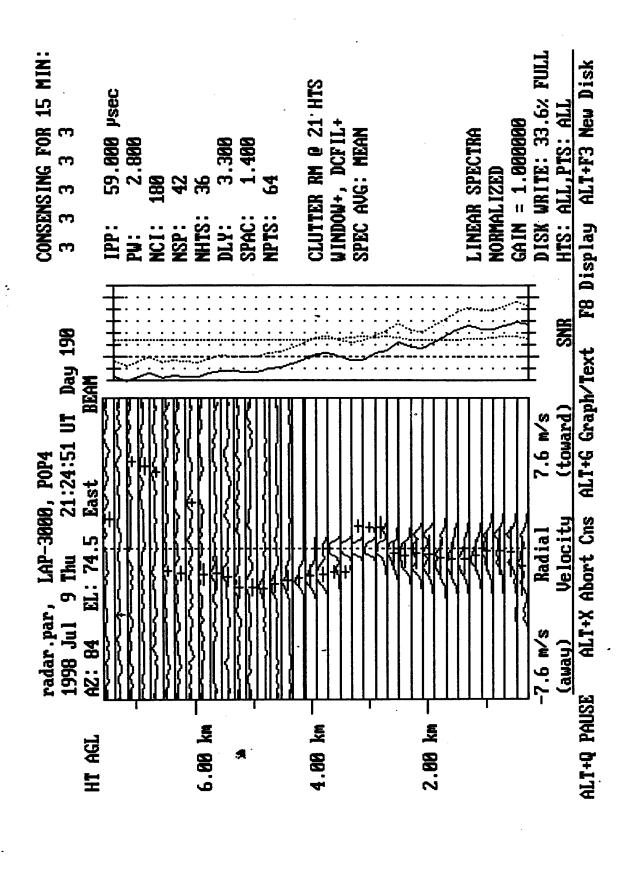


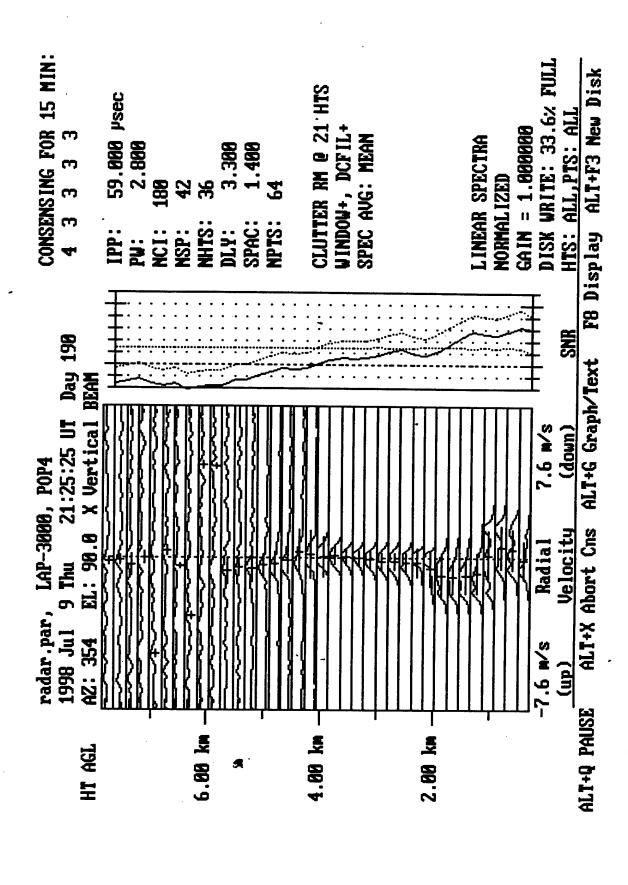












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